



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

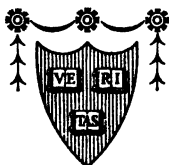


History of Speldhurst

Donald Dimsdale Mackinnon, Alan Mackinnon

Br 5233.124

Harvard College
Library



FROM THE BEQUEST OF
SUSAN GREENE DEXTER

B. 1.1

HISTORY OF SPELDHURST

BY THE

REV. DONALD D. MACKINNON,

Rector of the Parish.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

BY

ALAN MACKINNON.

PRICE ONE SHILLING NETT.

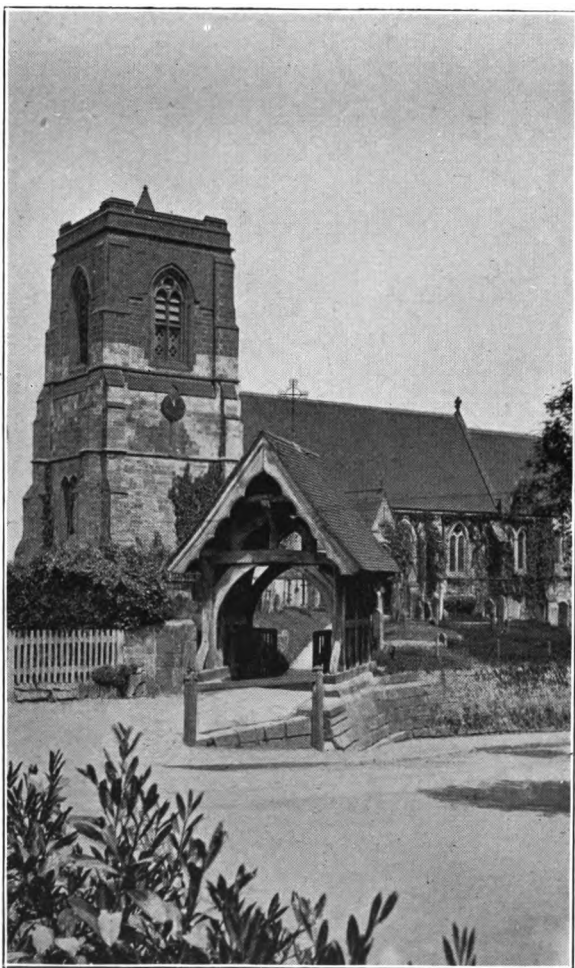
PUBLISHED BY

H. G. GROVES, THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

1902.

Pure
my-

3/6



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SPELDHURST.

[To face page 1.]

HISTORY OF SPELDHURST

BY THE

REV. DONALD D. MACKINNON,

Rector of the Parish.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

BY

ALAN MACKINNON.

PUBLISHED BY

H. G. GROVES, THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

1902.

✓ Br 5233.124

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

DEXTER FUND

80p 5, 1928

H. G. GROVES,

THE PANTILES, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

THE PARISH OF SPELDHURST.

To write a connected account of this ancient and interesting Parish is now, unfortunately, an impossible task—so many records have been lost, so comparatively little has been preserved: yet I must make the attempt with such material as is to hand, and in doing so I shall endeavour to preserve a fairly chronological order.

I shall divide my work into two parts, beginning with an historical description of the Church itself, and ending with an account of the Parish and all that may seem to be of general interest connected with it.

THE CHURCH.

We have no record of there having been a church here in the Saxon times, though it is likely that one existed, for the name of the parish is of Saxon origin—*speld* or *spelt* in that language meaning “learned,” and *hurst* or *herst* “a wood.”

Be that as it may, a King John post built into the Rectory at the time of its restoration towards the latter part of the fifteenth century indicates the probable existence of a church at any rate as far back as A.D. 1200.

On reaching the next reign—that of Henry III., we begin to find notices of Speldhurst; for the Rochester registers describe the fact that fines were payable by the Rectors of Speldhurst to the See of Rochester in the time

of Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Laurence, Bishop of Rochester, A.D. 1251.

Then, in the chartularies of Speldhurst, the family of Holland, which resided in this parish at and prior to the last date, is mentioned as being great benefactors to the Church of Speldhurst.

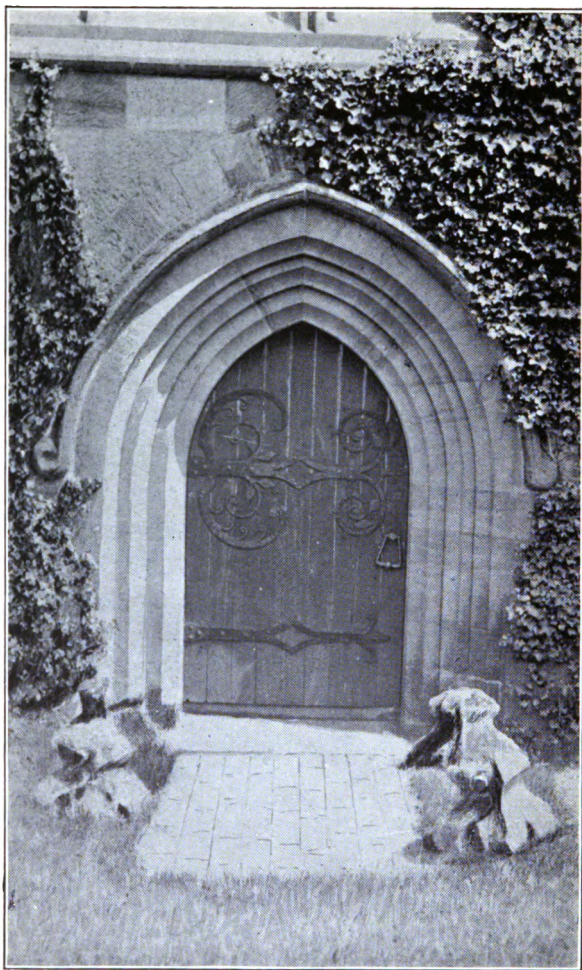
According to the "Registrum Roffense," William Russell and Hawis his wife founded a chapel at Gromenebregge (so called after Gromen, a Saxon who built a castle there—now known as Groombridge) in honour of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist, as a chantry in the parish of Speldhurst. The deed is dated thirty-ninth year of Henry III.

By a fine levied A.D. 1255 before the Justices Itinerant—viz., Gilbert de Preston, Roger de Wyrcestre, William de Cobham and William de Englefield—Walter de la Dene, then possessor of the advowson of Speldhurst, granted it to Walter Fitzwalter in tail general to hold of him and his heirs for ever at the yearly rental of one penny and performance of all other services due thence to the capital Lords of the fee.

In A.D. 1264 Roger de Padlesworth was patron of Speldhurst Church, when he released his right to certain rents and services due for lands granted to the Chapel of Gromenebregge. The document runs thus: *Carta Patroni ecclesiae de Speldherst super relaxatione redditus et servitii de terris et tenementis concessis capellae de Gromenebregge.*

It is dated St. John *ante port.* Lat. (6th May) in the forty-eighth year of Henry III. (which was the year of the momentous battle of Lewes), and is witnessed among others by "Sir Robert," Rector of the Parish of Speldherst.

This "Sir Robert" is probably the Robert of Speldhurst, who is mentioned in A.D. 1239, when William and Hawis



WEST TOWER DOOR, SPELDHURST CHURCH.
(Showing Label of Early 14th Century.)

[To face page 5.]

Russell granted him and his successors the chaplaincy of their new chantry at Groombridge "in pure and perpetual alms"; but as I have no positive proof of this, I have queried the date in my List of Rectors, as will presently be seen.

In a lease by this Robert of Speldhurst dated A.D. 1256, the chapel was called "of Redmeregge" in the parish of Speldhurst.

We now pass on to the reign of Edward I., A.D. 1272 to 1307, during the whole of which time, and probably long before, the family of Cobham were the principal landowners in the parish.

The church was evidently getting into disrepair, for very shortly after this—about A.D. 1320—the tower at any rate must have been rebuilt, as the label of the present west door is of that date, as well as the mouldings at the base of the tower.

Money was often raised in those ancient times by means of offerings of the faithful at shrines in the various parish churches, which attracted considerable numbers of pilgrims.

To this period we may fairly assign the erection of three such shrines in the chancel of Speldhurst Church, and the offerings at these would, like our "church expenses" of the present day, furnish no inconsiderable portion of the necessary funds for repairs or rebuilding.

Leland Duncan, chiefly deriving his information from Kentish Wills, records the existence of these shrines, and though he is quoting offerings made to them at a much later date, there is no reason to suppose they had not been *in situ* at a far earlier period.

The principal of these was an image of Our Lady of Pity, which was a figure of the Blessed Virgin weeping over the dead body of her Divine Son. This was always a Rood

Image, and represented here the dedicatory Saint of the church in addition. In our case this was, as we know, St. Mary the Virgin.

Thus we have: "To be buried in the churchyard of our Blessed Ladie of the Parish of Spelhyrst—Humfry Copyng, 1524."

And again: "To be buried in the churcheyerde of Spelhurst holdyn of the natyvite of our ladie—Richard Abraham 1524."

While for the shrine: "A taper of half li. wax before our lady at my departyng—Ric. Holmeby, 1528."

And again: "To Mary and John iii^d—Humfry Copyn, 1524."

And for the *place* of the shrine: "To the roode Mary and John xii^d—John Copping of Speldhurst, 1522."

And again: "To the making of the window afore the rode fote xii^d—W^m Crocker, 1525."

And, "To Our Lady of Pity—John Watts, 1515."

There was another shrine, to St. Christopher, for we have, "To S. Christopher—Ric. Abraham, 1524."

And "To the Xpofer xii^d—John Copping, 1522."

And "To the gilding of the ymage of Sainte Xpofer of Speldhurst xii^d—William Crocker, 1525."

While there was yet a third shrine, to St. Peter, "To the gylding of Saynte Peter xii^d—Richard Abraham, 1524."

A most interesting relic of the combination of these two latter shrines is to be found in a few tiles which survived the destruction of the church in 1791. The design on them is a planted staff or tree (the emblem of St. Christopher) between two cocks for St. Peter. Copies of this design are to be seen in the chancel-tiles of the present edifice. Specimens of the same combination are to be seen in the tiles of a church near Reading, which are known to have belonged to

the early part of the fourteenth century—a further argument for the date I have suggested for our shrines at Speldhurst.

Before leaving this subject I must not omit the so-called Herse-light, which was sometimes the light hanging before an image, when it would be a circle or a cross of wood with prickets. This may have been the case in the following :

“Lum. vocat le hers xii^d, John Curdde, 1472.” Though it was more generally used for the lights burning round the “Herse” at a funeral, as “To the tapers burning about the bere iii^d, John Watts of Speldhurst, 1515.”

The reign of Edward II., 1307—1327, was, as we have seen, a period of partial restoration at least for the parish church, but whatever may have been its state during the time of his successors, Edward III. and Richard II., we know that it had fallen into a lamentable condition during that of the next King (Henry IV.), for when Richard Waller of Groombridge brought back as his prisoner from the field of Agincourt, A.D. 1415 (*temp.* Henry V.), Charles, Duke of Orleans, half-brother of the French King Charles VI., that Prince, an enthusiastic lover of poetry, art and architecture, spent a considerable sum of money which should have gone towards his ransom in the restoration of our parish church, which it is expressly stated had fallen into a sad state of neglect. All testimony combines in saying that his work was a very fine specimen of the architecture of the period.

For upwards of three hundred and seventy years the parish had good cause to bless his generosity, until the fire we shall presently describe utterly destroyed the sacred edifice.

A full description of this early fifteenth century church is not to hand, and I have to rely for the most part on private letters for information on the subject.

Philipot, in his “Villare Cantianum,” only says that the Duke of Orleans re-erected Groombridge Place, where he

resided in honourable captivity, and greatly repaired or rebuilt the church of Speldhurst, and that the term of his imprisonment was twenty-four years, *i.e.*, from 1415 to 1439. His information was derived from MS. in the Herald's Office. He also gives the derivation of Spelehurst as "the learned wood."

Private correspondence describes the tracery of the windows as being exceedingly beautiful, and the tower and spire as being "neat," but most stress is laid upon the monuments, and here we get some help from Thorpe's "Registrum Roffense" as well.

On the south wall of the chancel was an ancient and beautiful monument of alabaster, with great variety of work and ornaments, surmounted by these arms in two coats quarterly : (i.) Sa., three walnut leaves, or, between two cotizes, arg. ; (ii.) az., a chevron, or, fretty sa. between three crosses molines, arg. ; (iii.) as (ii) ; (iv.) as (i), impaling gu. three swords barways, arg., pommelled and hilted, or, between eight mullets of the last. In a canton parted per fesse, arg. and or, a lion pass. gardant, gu. Crests over baron, a walnut tree ; over femme, a hand holding a sword, the blade broken off by the hilt.

Underneath were two arches—in one a man kneeling in complete armour, with quarterings hanging on pommel of sword, and three sons ; in the other an effigy of his wife with her arms, and two daughters kneeling ; in two tables of black alabaster, the following lines :—

"I'de prayse thy Valour, but Mars 'gins to frown ;
He fears when Sol's aloft, that Mars must downe,
I'de prayse thy fourme, but Venus cries amayne,
Sir Walter Waller will my Adam stayne,
I'de prayse thy learning but Minerva cries
Then Athens' fame must creep when Waller flies.

Assist us, England, in our doubtful song.
When such limbs fade, thy flourish lasts not long ;
Earth has his earth which doth his corpse inroule,
Angells sing requiems to his blessed soule."

This monument bore no date, but it appears by the parish Register that Sir Walter Waller, Knt., was buried A.D. 1599.

The second epitaph was an anagram to Lady Anna Waller, his wife, and runs thus:—

" A ll worthy eyes read this that hither come
N ever decaying virtue fills this tomb
N ever enough to be lamented here
A s long as women-kind are worth a tear
W ithin this weeping stone lyes Lady Waller
A ll that will know her more a sainte will call her
L ife so directed her whilst living here
L evelled so straight to GOD in love and feare
E ven so good, that turn his name and see
R eddy to crowne that life—a LAWREL tree."

Opposite to this monument was a handsome one of fine marble, "To the memory of James Long, gent., late of St. Mary-le-bone in the County of Middlesex who (though he died a Bachelor) proved a most indulgent Father to many of his Nephews and *Neices* while he lived : and at his Death parted his fortune amongst them. In gratitude to whose Memory, his *Neice* Beatrix Long, spinster, caused this monument to be erected, obiit 22 Martis, Anno 1714, *Ætatis* 70."

"Underneath also, lyes interred the Body of the said Beatrix Long ; Who, having spent a life of goodness, and exemplary Piety, chose to rest in Peace till the Morning of the Resurrection in this Place—Willing that the Esteem and affection she bore to her good Uncle might be followed by a Union of their Ashes after Death. She died at 45 years of age, May 2nd, 1726."

On a brass plate in a gravestone :—"Of your charitie pray for the soule of John Waller, esquyer, which dyed the V dai of March A. D. M^o V^o XVII" [1517].

On a gravestone :—"Here lyeth under the hope of a glorious resurrection in CHRIST, Martha, the 5th dau. of Sir Walter Waller, of Bushy Hall in the county of Hertford, K^{nt}, and dame Mary his wife, who died Aug. 1661, æt. sue 13."

On a blue marble :—"Eliz. dau. of Abraham and Eliz. Spooner, citizen and vintner of London, who dep. 15 Sep. 1689, aged 9.

" Like budding rose or flower of May
Growne up, cut down and wither'd in a day.
Early she left this stage in morning dress
Eere sin or vanity did her soul possess :
Then wipe of teares, for surely she is blest
With sounding prayers and everlasting rest."

On a gravestone [now outside the east wall of the chancel, and in a broken state] :—Arms : Three pick-axes and "Mr. Thomas Clare dyed the 25th of July and was buried the 26th of the same month in the 37th year of his age A.D. MDCLXXIX. He was merchant adventurer of London."

A marble tablet on the east wall of the chancel :—"To the memory of Mr. Edward Onely, an Army Surgeon, who died abroad much esteemed and beloved for his great care and tenderness of the sick and wounded soldiers. Placed here by his affectionate and mournful brother the Rev. Mr. R. Oneley A.M. late of Christ Church College, Cambridge, and Rector of this parish and Ashurst, in the year 1786, and formerly domestic chaplain to the Right Hon. Allen, Earl of Bathurst. He died March 31, 1787, aged 64 years. Fratri posuit, et sibi."

In the nave was a brass plate with effigies and "Of your

charitie pray for the soules of Wyllyam Waller late of Grome-bridge in the county of Kent, esquier, who lyeth here buried and Anne his wife ; which Wyllyam dep. this mortal life 18 Jan. M^o V^c LV. [1555] in second and therde yeare of the reignes of our Sovereigne Lord King Phillip and our Sovereigne Lady quene Mary.”

The plate had the usual Waller arms with this addition : Three hawks belled and a mullet in chief for difference:

Near the church gate, on a gravestone was the following : “ Here lieth the Body of William Martin, son of W^m and Eliz. Martin, who was kill’d the 10th of July 1728 (in the 8th year of his age) by a fatal flash of lightning, as he was going to his home, from the worship of the living God.

“ Blest child, whose kind Creator summon’d hence,
E’er sin defil’d his native Innocence !
So as Elijah, he, in lambent Fire
Mounted the skies, and join’d the Angelic Choir ! ”¹

The space occupied by this ancient and beautiful church was exactly that of the present one, which was built on the same site. It therefore measured from east to west 110 feet, including a chancel of 30 feet ; from north to south in the nave, 45 feet.

It is a matter of little regret, perhaps, that no detailed account of its architectural beauties has been preserved, for the present church is, through the skill of its architect, the late Sir Gilbert Scott, an almost exact reproduction thereof.

We have now to relate the disaster which robbed the parish of its church, after a restored or re-built existence of 370 years.

¹ The carvings on the more ancient headstones are worthy of note. They assume the form of crossed arrows with small circles at the notches, and are said to be very local.—[ED.]

Grouping the different accounts and harmonising them, we get the following details. A letter written by an eye-witness shall form the substance of the story, although I have taken the liberty of inserting in it what I have gathered from other sources, so as not to weary the reader with repetition.

On Thursday last [Oct. 20, 1791], says the writer, about 11.30 A.M., we had a most awful clap of thunder; and in a few minutes after we perceived from Mount Ephraim one of our parish churches—Speldhurst—to be on fire. Two men saw the ball enter about the centre of the¹ shingled part of that beautiful steeple, and almost instantly smoke issued from the top—flames succeeding. The few persons residing near it happily saved the chest of writings, plate and pulpit cushions. Most conspicuous amongst these was a valiant tailor (name now lost) and Martin, the host of the “George and Dragon.” Had any person been on the spot capable of directing the men, it is supposed that the chancel, built by the Duke of Orleans, might have been saved; as it was, everything contributed to its destruction. Very soon the heavy rain and hail ceased. The high west wind drove the flames from the steeple directly on to the church, and continued blowing without rain the whole afternoon. In about four hours this magnificent structure was reduced to a heap of ruins.

“The fiery furnace into which Shadrach and his companions were cast,” quaintly says the writer, “could, I think, bear no comparison to the fire enclosed within these walls when everything on which the fire had power was burning together on the floor.”

¹ Shingles are tiles of rent oak. The spire was of timber. Some accounts say the spindle of the vane was first struck, and in its fused state ignited the woodwork.

The fine peal of six bells was, of course, destroyed, and the molten metal ran down Speldhurst hill; sufficient of this was afterwards collected to be eventually recast into the present seventh bell. The monuments—some of most curious and valuable workmanship—were crumbled to dust.

The next morning a small space was cleared in front of what had been the altar, and a couple were actually married there! The venturesome pair were William Card and Elizabeth Cole, both of this parish; the ceremony was performed by the Rev. William Gordon, then curate here, and one of the witnesses was Thomas Brooks. In those days the clerk always signed, and as John Brooks was, and had been clerk for many years, perhaps his feelings were too much for him, or the atmosphere too warm, and he sent a brother to represent him. However that may have been, one very serious fact has been preserved in the parish archives—the bride's new shoes were completely spoilt!

"The stonework of the steeple and church," continues our correspondent, "is in the most ruinous condition—not a material in the whole remaining for future use."

What is very extraordinary, the font was turned upside down and *uninjured*!

The wind continuing to blow from the west saved the church farmhouse from inevitable destruction. A person shooting near a mile from the church at the same time, had his gun twisted out of his hand by the lightning, which alarmed him so much that he left the gun on the spot and fled.

Reports at the same time from Rainham, in Kent, say that £150 damage was done in the church there, while such widely separate places as Ipswich, Bognor, Falmouth, Seaford and Callington (the latter in Cornwall), reported fearful storms on that day.

A meeting of the parishioners was held on the 23rd of April, 1792, when it was decided to commence the work of building a parish church on the same site forthwith, but in spite of frequent rates, sometimes amounting to 2s. 6d. in the £, the funds came in but slowly, and recourse was had to Briefs. These Briefs were letters patent issued by the Sovereign, directing the collection of alms for special objects named in them—such as building or repairing churches. Great abuses arose out of them, and they were finally¹ abolished in 1828.

“King’s letters,” however, which were documents of a similar character, were not discontinued till 1860.

One such Brief bears date 25th July, 1764, and is thus entered: Tunbridge, Speldhurst, &c., *hail*—loss or charge, £12,798; and would seem to refer to a disastrous hailstorm which affected a wide area, and would probably include private houses as well as churches, for Briefs seem not to have been by any means limited to places of public worship.

The Brief on this occasion was dated 24th July, 1792, and was issued for Speldhurst Church building, £3,000; and a second one followed for the same object on the 15th January, 1803, £2,067 12s. 4½d.

I note that Liverpool contributed two shillings and three-pence half-penny. If other great centres did likewise, very little could have come from these sources. Be that as it may, a new and unworthy church was opened on Michaelmas Day, 1805—poverty of design and meanness of execution being the chief characteristics which distinguished it from its noble predecessor. However, the parishioners must have been glad at last to possess a place of worship nearer than

¹ The direction to read them has not been removed from the Prayer-book rubric.



ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, SPELDHURST.
(Interior.)

[To face page 15.]

the chapel at Groombridge, which they had used during the long interval of fourteen years ; and the tower was tinkered up somewhat later, so that one bell was cast out of the old metal, and commenced its duties in 1812. The wretched little church, with an apse for chancel, and huge frowning galleries, received an addition in the shape of an annex on the north side in 1832, and even then barely accommodated the congregation, which, it must be remembered, extended in those days as far as Tunbridge Wells.

Thirty-eight more years passed by, and then, as dry rot and decay showed in various places, it was decided to pull the church down. Service was held for the last time in it on Sunday, January 9th, 1870, and a new church, on the exact site, and of the same dimensions as the older one, was commenced and rapidly proceeded with, service being held in the parochial schools. Sir Gilbert Scott was the architect; Hope Constable, of Penshurst, the builder; and the first stone was laid on the 27th April, 1870. Bishop Parry, Suffragan of Dover, consecrated the new church on the 6th May, 1871, the tower being completed in 1879. The church as it now stands was erected at a cost, from first to last—including all subsequent gifts, and the vestry (built in 1897) and all fittings—of about £10,400.

The structure consists of a nave, north aisle, chancel, vestry and tower, all except the latter of the Early English style of architecture in its later period. The nave consists of four bays, with clustered columns of exceptional lightness and elegance, surmounted by an open-work timber roof, and the chancel has a double arch connecting it with a continuation of the north aisle to the east wall, the chancel itself extending fifteen feet further eastward. The mouldings of the capitals are very fine, the beautiful stone of which the church is built having been obtained from quarries in

the parish which yield a very pleasing and delicately-coloured ferruginous sandstone from the Hastings bed. The lower stage of the tower is of much earlier date than the rest of the church—the label and mouldings of the west door showing early fourteenth century work, while the basement of the tower itself evidently dates from a still earlier period. This stage alone survived the fire, the upper stage remaining in a ruinous and unsafe condition. In 1879 the upper stage was removed, but two new ones were erected in its place, making the total height seventy feet from the ground. A quaint little pinnacle roofing the tower stairs, and looking like a finger pointing to the sky, was placed in the north-east angle of the flat and solid leaden roof—forming in the far distance a distinctive feature of the edifice.

The base of the tower was at the same time greatly strengthened by an immense amount of grouting, which enables it to sustain a ringing chamber and a peal of eight bells. The nave porches north and south are deeply recessed and stone-roofed at sharp angles, which greatly adds to the light and graceful proportions of the whole edifice.

It is the general remark of visitors, "This is one of the most beautiful village churches in England."

All the monuments of the preceding church are collected on the interior walls of the tower, thus freeing the walls of the rest of the building from any disfigurements. Only one monument calls for special remark—viz., that which was erected in 1826 by Sir T. W. Waller, Bart., in the shape of a brass plate, "To the memory of the Waller family (descended from Alured de Waltur of Newark, Notts, who died A.D. 1183), who were settled at Groombridge in this parish from 1360 to 1604, and were lords not only of the manor of Speldhurst but also of Hollenden, Barnes, Shalis-court, Nackington, Rusthall, Hadlow, Hollands, Ashurst

and Ferbies, all in this county, many of whom besides those whose names are hereon inscribed, were buried in the old church of Speldhurst; but all their monuments and other memorials were totally destroyed together with that edifice by lightning on the 20th of Oct. 1791.

David de Waller, Master of the Rolls to King Edw. III. ob. 1360.

Thomas Waller, ob. Dec. 1391.

Sir Richard Waller, *Knt.* who at the battle of Azincourt, 1415, took prisoner Charles Duke of Orleans, ob. Oct. 1429.

Richard Waller, ob. May, 1470.

Sir John Waller, *Knt.* ob. Dec. 1510.

William Waller, ob. Feb. 1525.

William Waller, ob. Aug. 1555.

John Waller, ob. Sept. 1574.

Thomas Waller, ob. Nov. 1586.

Sir Walter Waller, *Knt.* ob. July, 1599.

Lady Waller, ob. Sep. 1624."

Here follows a list of descendants not buried at Speldhurst, including *Sir Thos. Waller*, Lieutenant of Dover Castle and the Cinque Ports, ob. 1613, and

Sir William Waller, the famous Parliamentary General, ob. Sept. 1668.

Perhaps the chief glory of the church is the display of stained glass which fills all its windows. Nowhere else, we believe, is to be seen modern glass in greater perfection, and we must now proceed to a detailed description of these windows. No less than nine of them are from designs by the late Sir Edward Burne-Jones, of Exeter College, Oxford, and were executed by his college friend the late Mr. W. Morris, whose works are at Merton, Surrey. Seven of these were the gifts of the Rev. Canon Hichens, also an Exeter man, and as I was an humble *alumnus* of the same college, I

naturally take a pride in recording these facts. Let us begin with the

Easternmost window of the south or central aisle. It contains two lights: in one the figure of St. Matthew engaged in writing his Gospel. Over his head is the face of a winged man, in reference to Rev. iv. 7, 8; the third "living creature" ("beast," A.V.) there described having been always assigned to St. Matthew, because he tells in his Gospel so much about our Lord's *human* nature. At his feet are a money-box and coins to represent his profession—a Roman toll-gatherer (publican).

The Annunciation fills the lower section of this light; an event, by the way, not described by St. Matthew.

In the other light we have St. Mark, also writing his Gospel. The emblem of the winged lion over his head refers to the first "living creature" of Rev. iv., assigned for an unknown reason to this Evangelist. Curiously enough, the lower light depicts Zacharias at the birth of John the Baptist—not recorded by St. Mark.

The next window proceeding westwards has also two lights: in one is the figure of St. Luke with a pen in his hand, resting his foot on a block of wood. Over his head we have, as is so often the case, an ox, though the winged creature for him in Rev. iv. is "like a calf." The lower light represents Jesus questioning the Doctors (teachers) in the Temple. In the other is the figure of St. John, also in the act of writing, with the eagle, the fourth living creature of Rev. iv., which he himself wrote when an exile at Patmos in the *Ægean* Sea. The lower light gives the home scene at Nazareth, which, however, that apostle does not narrate.

It would be difficult to find any fault in the artistic beauty and richness of tone in these four figures. Inscribed beneath the western of the two are the words, "In grateful

and affectionate memory of E. W., a kind and faithful nurse, March 12th, 1875."

The next window, near the Font, is the gift of Canon J. Worthington Bliss, then curate of Speldhurst, "In loving memory of a little child, C. M. B., who was made God's child by Baptism May 22nd, and whom He took to Himself Dec. 23rd, 1859." It is an exceedingly beautiful specimen of the collaboration of Burne-Jones and Morris, the flood of pure silver light upon a deep blue ground being effective and suitable as an infant's memorial. One section represents the Patron Saint of Speldhurst, "Sancta Maria Virgo," with the three-headed lily, which in ancient times was intended to convey the idea of virginity before, in, and after motherhood.¹ The other section portrays "Sancta Elizabeth," the mother of John the Baptist, also a graceful figure; the lower lights, the Baptism of our Lord, and Jesus Blessing Little Children.

The tower or west window is appropriately filled by figures of the archangels Michael and Gabriel, which well befit the long, narrow, and double-embrasured openings of this early style of architecture. The artist is Kemp, of Brighton, and the donor Canon F. H. Hichens, when curate of Speldhurst.

St. Michael is shown as a youth with remarkably beautiful peacock-feather wings and golden hair, with a circlet of leaves above his brow. He is fully armed, and bears in his right hand a lance, suspended from which is a banner charged with a red cross on a gold and white ground, and he supports with his left a shield standing by his side. Beneath his feet is the trampled dragon. The sheen of the armour is vivid, and the face saintly yet determined.

¹ The heraldic fleur-de-lys, which previous to the Revolution was borne on the arms of France, is intended to resemble the iris, and is sacred to the Virgin Mary.

St. Gabriel, on the left, is pictured in priestly garments with a cope, holding a sceptre in the left hand, with the index and middle finger of the right hand upheld in blessing. There are wings and circlets of flowers like those of St. Michael exquisitely painted, but the face is hardly so expressive and too deeply shaded with green, while the left hand does not seem to grasp the sceptre with sufficient firmness, otherwise the figure contrasts well with its warlike neighbour.

The next in order is the *west window of the north aisle*—a truly magnificent specimen of Burne-Jones and Morris—the gift of Canon and Mrs. Hichens, with an inscription, “In memory of a father by a son,” and “In memory of a mother by a daughter.” The universal admiration excited by this veritable *chef d’œuvre* proves the justice of the name it has earned, “the Window of Praise.” Its two lights are filled with six angels, three full-length figures in each, and the Latin words are those in St. Matt. xxi. 9. Each angel has a different musical instrument in his hand; the silver tips of the wings with the general deep sea-blue background and the bold rim of plain glass round each of the lights give excellent effects, and when the moon or a summer setting sun is behind the glass it is almost impossible to describe the grandeur of this window. I was once in the church at midnight during a violent and prolonged storm of thunder and lightning; the angels in this window during the vivid flashes seemed endued with life, while the crashes of thunder in the darkness that followed, roaring through the sacred edifice and shaking the seat against which I leaned, combined to produce an effect I shall never forget. The features of the angels are slightly tinted so as to resemble flesh, and are said to have been suggested by a picture of Fra Lippi’s in the Pitti collection at Florence. I am of opinion that

ours is an original design. The head-light is the figure of Christ on the throne of glory, but the treatment of the colours seems hardly worthy of the lights below it.

We now reach the *western window of the north aisle wall*. On the right is a full-length figure of St. Nicolas; on the left, of St. Ursula—the patron saints of boys and girls—appropriately placed over the school-childrens' seats. St. Nicolas has a bishop's crosier and a naked child in his arms; he is wearing a robe, the green colour of which is turned back to show a red lining. The effect of this is much admired. St. Ursula has a flowing robe of blue, under which crouch two little girls, and in her hand she holds an arrow of unusual length. The blending as well as contrast of colour in this window is of a high order. Artists, Burne-Jones and Morris.

The *centre window of the north aisle* has recently been filled with new glass, the work of the Morris firm, from designs by the late Sir E. Burne-Jones, and is the gift of Mr. C. W. Powell as a memorial to his father and grandfather. The inscription beneath runs thus: "To the glory of God and in grateful memory of Baden Powell, born 21st Nov. 1767, died 24th July, 1844, and Charles Powell, born 30th July, 1807, died 17th March, 1885—sometime wardens of this Church."

The subjects of the two lights are "Æthelberht Rex" and "Bertha Reg.," the first Christian King and Queen of Kent. The figure of Ethelbert is spirited and manly; he is clad in armour with a beautiful blue mantle, resting on a two-handed sword. That of Bertha is equally pleasing. She carries a sceptre, while the maroon robe over white is particularly effective. Not the least charm in this handsome window is the head-light with its crown and sceptre.

The *easternmost window of the north wall*, by the same artists, has two lights, St. Gregory to the left and St. Augustine

to the right. The latter firmly grasps a long staff surmounted by a cross, and the colouring of the drapery is rich, harmonising well with that of Queen Bertha in the central window. Gregory the Great, the Pope who sent Augustine to England, is represented with a pastoral staff in the right hand and a book in the left, and with the figure of a dove hovering at his ear, denoting the statement of his friend the deacon Peter, who, when they were about to burn St. Gregory's books at his death, swore that it would be sacrilege, as he had seen a vision of the Holy Spirit fluttering over the revered prelate. The yellow, almost golden, hue of his robe is much admired, and the expression of the face is one of extreme delicacy, the result of his asceticism. The headlight is that of an angel playing on the earliest form of an organ, in allusion to the "Gregorian Chants."

We now reach the *east window of the north aisle*, and in it are six so-called English Saints, though Alban, Aidan and Helena hardly come under this designation. St. Alban is in a civil dress, but leans (as a Roman soldier) on a sword with a book in his left hand; yellow and orange are beautifully blended in his costume. St. Aidan is depicted in episcopal vestments, mitre and crosier; on his broad phylactery are sketches of some of the scenes of his life, which can only be studied with binoculars. Aidan, as is well known, was originally a monk of Iona. St. Boniface completes the trio on the left. He appears in episcopal robes with mitre, crosier, and a book with a sword sticking through it, in allusion to the manner of his death at the hands of heathen Frisians. His face, intended to represent a man at the age of seventy-five, has perhaps too painful an expression. On the right, beginning at the top, we have St. Helena, attired in an exquisite blue robe and resting a tall Cross against her shoulder. Her story is wrapped in mystery. She is said by

some to have been a daughter of Coel (old King Cole), King of Colchester, and to have been the mother of Constantine the Great, Emperor of Rome. Others say she was a native of Bithynia. Tradition as ancient as A.D. 395 says that she dug on Calvary, found the true cross, recognising it by its inscription, and sent portions to various cities. The event is commemorated in our calendar on 3rd of May (Ellinmas Day) as the "Invention of the Cross." She is said to have died A.D. 328. St. Oswald occupies the middle light, clad in a kingly garb of beautiful tints, supporting on his right arm an eagle and holding in his left hand a kind of mace or sceptre. King of Northumbria, Oswald was a real saint, as his life shows, and he fell fighting against the heathen Penda of Mercia in the thirty-ninth year of his age, exclaiming with his last breath, "My God, save their souls!" words which passed into a proverb among the Saxon people. "Where," says Baring-Gould, "shall we find in all history a hero more nearly approaching to the ideal, more richly gifted, more worthy of eternal remembrance, and, it must be added, more completely forgotten?" The lowest light is occupied by St. Walburga, in a much admired sepia robe and white cowl, with a crook in her left hand and an amphora in her right. A daughter of Richard, King of the West Saxons, she held the peculiar offices of both abbess of Heidenheim in the Diocese of Eichstadt (Bavaria), and also superintendent of an abbey of monks at the same place; and this double control of nuns and monks she held till her death in 780.

An inscription below the window runs thus: "Remember gratefully Catherine Barker, the first who for love's sake led the praise of God at the organ in this church." Some think this window to be even superior to the "Window of Praise" which faces it. The artists and donor are the same,

The chancel windows call for less remark than the rest, with the exception of that in its *south wall facing the organ*, the ninth of the Burne-Jones and Morris series, and the eighth given by Canon Hichens to this church. It has two lights—the subject of the left one being the Cleansing of Naaman, that on the right depicting the Baptism of our Lord. The whole is a bold study in blue and green, and has a thoroughly aqueous character. The perennial flow of water from the fountain in the one light through the fountain in the other is suggestive of the whole subject, and the details are very artistic. Thus, the little lemon-coloured lamp over the one fountain and the orange-coloured lamp over the other is very effective. An element of drollery, if it is not emblematical, is introduced in the fish swimming in the Jordan. The scroll, “*Tu es Filius Meus dilectus*,” and the introduction of a dove remind us of the presence of the Holy Trinity on the sacred occasion of our Lord’s Baptism.

The small two-light window in the south sanctuary wall was executed by Clayton and Bell; left, the Women at the Sepulchre; right, the two Angels with a scroll, “He is not here, He is risen.” Medallions of SS. Gregory and Jerome, then of SS. Augustine and Ambrose, and of Noah (with ark and olive branch), and Abraham (with knife), then of Isaac and Jacob (each with a pastoral staff), below, complete the work. The inscription beneath is, “To the glory of God and in memory of H. G. and M. S. Cholmondeley.”

Facing this window is one of similar size and style by the same artists. Left, is the Resurrection, surmounted by medallions of Isaiah and Jeremiah; below, SS. Peter and John at the Sepulchre, with medallions of SS. Matthew and Mark above them. Right, is the scene near Emmaus, surmounted by medallions of Ezekiel and Daniel; below, the group of our Lord, SS. Thomas and Peter in the

background, above this are medallions of SS. Luke and John. Inscriptions: "In pious and loving memory of Charles Barker, M.A., died October, 1842, and of Caroline his wife, died June, 1869"; and "In memory of a beloved husband, Charles Henry Barker, M.D., died August 18th, 1862, aged 35 years."

The east window, erected to the memory of his wife by Sir John Musgrove, Bart., Lord Mayor of London in 1850—1851, is a three-light window, the work of Lavers and Barraud. The central figure is our Lord on the Cross, with the Virgin and St. John below, while medallions of the various events of the Crucifixion fill the surrounding quatrefoils. The figures are passable, but the colouring is not in keeping with the general tone of the church.

Before leaving the chancel we must note the handsome candelabra, the work of Messrs. Starkey Gardiner, from designs found by Mr. J. Oldrid Scott in a note-book which belonged to Sir Gilbert. They were placed there by parishioners and by members of the Powell family in memory of the late rector, Rev. J. J. Saint. The Altar Cross, of peculiar yet pleasing design, was the gift of friends to the present Rector and by him to the sanctuary.

The spacious vestry, built at a cost of over £700 from a design by J. Oldrid Scott, F.S.A., and by the same builder Hope Constable who erected the church, was opened in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It contains *two windows*. In one is placed the stained glass removed from the church to make room for the Ethelbert and Bertha window. The late firm of Connor and Co. were the designers, and the subject is that of our Lord with Martha and Mary. An inscription records: "In memory of Caroline Skelton, wife of Robert Alexander, C.B., of Holwood, Kent; born May 29th, 1826; died July 29th, 1850." *In the other, a small three-light window*, the remains

of the old east window are used. The centre light shows Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac, and in a medallion above is a walnut tree (the Waller crest), charged with a shield bearing the *fleur de lis*, differenced by a label of three points. The stone over the south porch, which was happily preserved when the church was burnt down and replaced in its original position, bears a similar shield. This shield was the cognizance of Charles Duke of Orleans, taken prisoner by Sir Richard Waller at Agincourt, 1415. He discovered the Duke amongst a heap of slain, and brought him to his residence at Groombridge, where he remained in honourable captivity for many years, unable to pay his large ransom of 400,000 crowns owing to his benefactions, amongst which was the restoration of this church, on which he placed the stone bearing his shield. In gratitude for the kindness shown to him by the Waller family, he permitted them, with the consent of Henry VI., to add to their family arms and crest the royal shield described above.¹ The north side light has the figure of Sir Richard Waller in full armour, kneeling before an altar with arms above—viz., sa, three walnut leaves, or, between two bendlets arg. In the south side light we have the figure of Lady Waller, whose maiden name was Gulby, in a white robe and coif kneeling before an altar. Her arms above are gu., three swords arg., hilts or, fesseways, between six besants, or, on a canton demy arg. and vert, a lion rampant, or, ppr. This family is, I believe, now extinct.

THE BELLS.

It is difficult to say at what date a peal was first erected in our belfry. There is no reason to suppose that when

¹ The date of this glass is uncertain, but it is older than that of the centre light, which dates about 1750. It is known that Sir Richard Waller drew or painted the design for his own and his wife's monument. This may have been a copy of it.—ED,

the Duke of Orleans restored the church the tower did not contain its peal, for there are plenty of records showing that bells were in use for church purposes long before that date. The first entry I find in the accounts is followed at intervals by many others, so I will make a selection and avoid repetition. Internal evidence points to there being four bells at first, then six later. For convenience I put prices in numerals of the present day :—

1600.	For mending the great Bell	2s. 6d.
1601.	Making the great Bell wheale	6s. 8d.
1601.	Scaffolding to youngest bell and nailing	7d.
1659.	Two halfe inshe boardes for the little Bell wheale	2s. 0d.
1659.	Nayles for roapes and oyle	1s. 0d.
1661.	Edw. Baker—mending locke of Bell-free doure	4d.
1661.	4 bell roapes	16s. 6d.
1661.	Still the joyner for mayking Bell frame	10s. 0d.
1664.	Leather for the Bells	1s. 2d.
1665.	Splising the great Bell roape	4d.
1666.	W ^m Ashdowne, new hanging y ^e little Bell	15s. 0d.
1666.	Samuel Waghorne for a peece of iron for Bell-wheales	1s. 0d.
1666.	Ringers, 29 th May	6d.
1669.	Nayles and oyle and whipcord for sollis	7s. 0d.
1669.	John Cosham for iron work and casting of Brasses for y ^e Bells	£4 15s. 9d.
1672.	James Ashdowne for making new bore for Bell-rope and mending the wheele	1s. 0d.
1672.	Ringers at y ^e King's Returne and Coronation	3s. 0d.
1674.	Shires Constable, tymber for y ^e Bells	3s. 6d.

1674.	Rowles for y ^e Bells	5s. 0d.
1674.	Shires Constable, for ringing at y ^e pouder treason	2s. 0d.
1675.	John Jeffery for framing and putting in window at y ^e Bellfree	18s. 0d.
1685.	Ringng 6 day of Feb. for Kynge's cumng to y ^e Throwne	6s. 0d.
1688.	Ringers for y ^e Birth of y ^e Prince of Wales	1s. 0d.
1688.	Ringers when the Prince came in	2s. 0d.
1688.	More to Ringers with prayers for K. William and Mary	3s. 0d.
1690.	A new Batherick for one of y ^e Bells	4s. 0d.
1693.	John Still for taking down y ^e Bell and hanging him again	16s. 0d.
1693.	John Gossum for fetch y ^e Bell and carring him again to Church	6s. 0d.
1694.	John Idell for tolling at y ^e Queen's funerall	1s. 0d.
1694.	For ash to make stays for bell wheeles	2s. 0d.
1704.	A man and boy mending pavement in Belfry	2s. 6d.
1706.	Ringng several Gaudee-days	10s. 6d.
1707.	Ringng St. George's day	2s. 6d.
1710.	Beer and hog's lard for y ^e carpenter's use in hanging y ^e Bells	8s. 9d.
1710.	Two new Badricks for to hang y ^e Clappers	6s. 6d.
1710.	Repairng y ^e Church and Bells for 2250 shingles at 3s. per 100, for 116 of Bearers and Blockngs for y ^e Bells £3 11s. 8d.	
1710.	Shrowding boards for y ^e Bell-wheeles	3s. 9d.

1710. 8 rowles for the Ropes and catches . 6s. 0d.
1710. New hanging y^e Bells, mending wheeles,
iron and brass-work and nayles £8 3s. 11d.
1712. Mats, Bosses, timber and loame for
mending Bells 6s. 6d.
1714. 4 new bell ropes 14s. 0d.
1714. 2 braces for the Bell Weigd . . 17s. 2d.
1715. Bear for y^e Ringers on making the
Church Sess 11s. 0d.
1716. Articles about casting, carring Bells to
Burwash and bringing them . £3 12s. 6d.
1716. Mr. Waylet in part of y^e money for
casting £16 9s. 6d.
1716. Expences in going to Wadhurst to help
them home with y^e Bells, for a
horse's expences all night . . 5s. 6d.
1616. Spent when Penshurst Ringers came
to ring y^e Bells 7s. 6d.
1716. Mr. Waylet—other part of his money
for casting £10 0s. 0d.
1716. Letters from y^e Bell founder . . 3s. 4d.
1716. Spent at Burwash when y^e Bells were
carried 10s. 0d.
1716. 3 horses going to Wadhurst and
expences all night to meet y^e Bells 5s. 0d.
1716. Carring y^e iron to Burwash . . 3s. 0d.
1717. New sett of Bell-ropes for last year . 18s. 0d.
1717. New sett of Bell-ropes for this year . 16s. 0d.
[It is evident that the peal was now increased to six.—Ed.]
1722. Thos. Cook mending 3rd bell clapper
at two places 5s. 0d.
1725. John Waghorn for keeing up the Bells 2s. 0d.
1729. 6 bell ropes £1 0s. 6d.

1733. John Trice—sett of bell ropes . . . 18s. 0d.

[The accounts from 1600 to 1775 show an average of new sets of ropes every other year.—Ed.]

1738. John Stephens—New hanging y^e Great Bell, laying the Brasses thereof and new laying the Brasses of the second Bell and putting on of new staves to the wheeles and nails for the same (with other work including New Galery, Church Gates and Church marks) . . . £29 10s. 9d.

1771. John Brooks for looking after the clock . . . £1 1s. 0d.

[This is the first mention of a clock. The present one was purchased second-hand and erected in 1827, the maker being Payne, of High Street, Bloomsbury, inventor of the illuminating dial. It was, of course, taken down in 1870, and only replaced in February, 1879, after the tower restoration was completed. It is said to be of considerable age.—Ed.]

1773. Farstening of the clock face . . . 2s.

The six bells were melted in the fire of October 20th, 1791.

On rebuilding the church in 1805, only one bell—the present seventh—was recast by Messrs. Mears, of White-chapel, and placed in the tower in 1812. The bill to Budgen for hanging was £5 16s. 2d. At a vestry meeting on June 4th, 1847, several of the parishioners expressed a wish that the ancient peal should be restored, and it was resolved that a ring of six bells should be procured, the payment to be by voluntary contributions, the wood work and “hunt” of the present bell to be repaired out of the church rates. On or about November 5th, 1849, the new peal (by Messrs. Mears) was accordingly hung. The bells were, of course, removed when the church was pulled down, and replaced

when the tower was completed in 1878. In 1887 two Jubilee bells, the present treble and second, were added by Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel. We now have a perfect, sweet-toned, full peal of eight bells.

The Treble, 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 24 lbs., note F, bears the inscription: "In memory of Susanna and Eleanor Powell, died, 1885."

The Second, 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs., note E: "I celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1887," the gift of the parishioners, as the Treble was of the Powell family.

The Third, 5 cwt. 0 qrs. 25 lbs., note D.

The Fourth, 6 cwt. 0 qrs. 3 lbs., note C.

The Fifth, 6 cwt. 0 qrs. 16 lbs., note B^b.

The Sixth, 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 10 lbs., note A.

The Seventh, 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 0 lbs., note G.

The Tenor, 13 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs., note F., with inscription: "The time is short," "Watch and pray always."

In 1887 a set of chimes striking the Magdalen quarters were presented to the church by Mr. C. W. Powell.

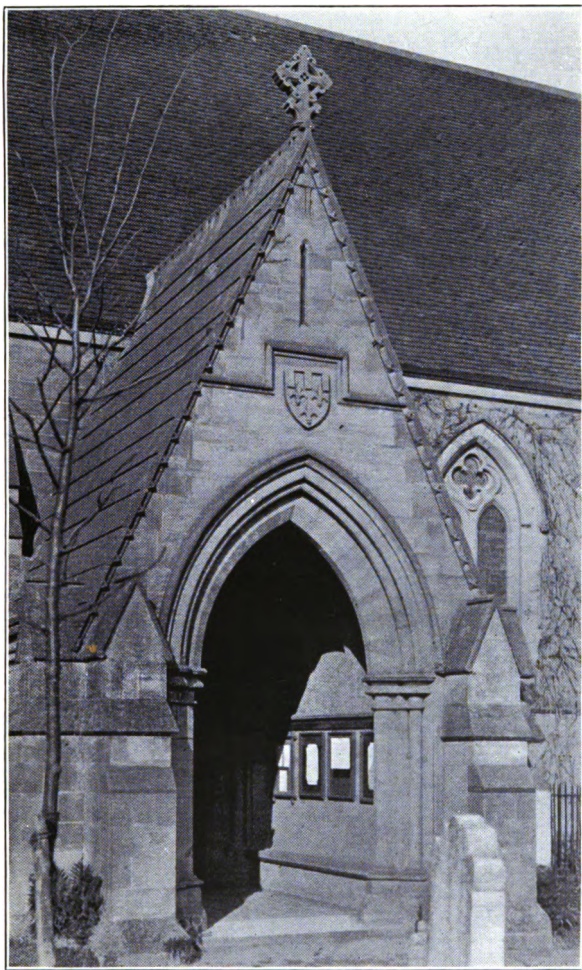
The curfew was rung here till about thirty years ago. The passing bell is the tenor for adults, the fifth for those between fifteen and twenty-one years, and the treble or third for infants and children under fifteen years. The bell is raised and rung for half an hour, beginning and ending with tellers 3 by 3 for males and 3 by 2 for females. It is not rung before 8 a.m., nor after sundown, but at any hour for the death of the Sovereign or of the Rector of the Parish. Muffled peals are rung at ringers' burials. On Sundays bells are rung at 7, 8, 9, and 10 a.m. in summer. Not at 7 a.m. in winter. Changes are rung half an hour previously for services, the tenor tolled for the last five minutes; and when the hour for service has struck, the treble is struck three times. The fifth or tenor is struck

after 11 a.m. service, when there is a late celebration of the Holy Communion. It is said that this was anciently called the "Pudding Bell," to warn those at home to get the dinner ready. At 2 p.m. the tenor is rung to proclaim that there will be a sermon as well as service at even-song. This is called the "Sermon Bell." A bell is rung for vestries, and there are early morning peals on the "Church Ringing Days"—viz., Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, Ascension, and Harvest Thanksgiving Days—and peals on the "State Ringing Days"—viz., the King's, Queen's, and Prince of Wales's Birthdays.

As a tablet in the ringing chamber informs us, the first peal on the eight bells was rung on December 17th, 1887, by the Speldhurst branch of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers. Grandsire Triples, 5,040 changes; Holt's six-part Bob and simple variation, in three hours six minutes. Harry Edwards, treble; James Baker, 2; James Maynard, 3; George Turley, 4; Frank Still, 5; Fred. Still, junr., 6; Charles Chapman, 7; Harry Anscombe, tenor; conducted by Fred. Still, junr.; Fred. Still, senr., captain.¹

To conclude our description of the church itself, we have to note that there remain, as survivals of the fire, the Orleans *stone*, over the south porch, with its three *fleurs de lis* in chief and label of three points; the *lower* stage of the tower, including the sun dial, *minus* a gnomon, and the vane of the steeple; the latter is preserved in the vestry,

¹ As we go to press, another tablet is being erected which tells us that the K. C. A. on March 19th, 1892, rang a peal of Bob Major here with 11,200 changes in 6 hours 16 minutes. Jas. Baker, treble; Jas. Maynard, 2nd; Edw. Mankelow, 3rd; Geo. Turley, 4th; Geo. Card, 5th; Wm. Latter, 6th; Chas. Chapman, 7th; Thos. Card, tenor. Composed by Chas. H. Martin; conductor, Thos. Card. The above is the longest length by all the Band and by the Association, and was rung at the first attempt.



SOUTH PORCH, SPELDHURST CHURCH.

(Showing Orleans Stone, *cir.* 1417.)

[To face page 32.]

and is perfect all but the spindle, which was fused. The brass work bears the letters B. W. G.—brass wire gauge—but there is no indication of a date.¹ The solid, yet elegant, Lich-gate was erected in 1875, in memory of Mary Powell, “unknown yet well-known,” an anonymous benefactress to the church.

THE PARISH

is situated in the Hundreds of Somerden, Codsheath, and Washlingstone,² on the northern fringe of what was once the vast Forest of Andred.

Speldhurst was a place of much importance in the early Middle Ages, owing to the considerable number of influential families which settled within its borders.

The Cobhams and Clintons were here in the reigns of the first Norman Kings, and notices of other well-known historical names continually appear in ancient deeds and charters. Thus we learn from the Kent Fines at Westminster that in A.D. 1254 in Wethelstane Hundred is the ville of Splephurst (*sic*), and that Walter de la Dene held i. quarter in Speldhurst (*sic*) of Randulphe de Chetwode.

From the same source, under date 1318 :—“S. Michael in one month [August 29th?] Henry With v. Jno. de Rale and Robergia his wife *in terra Spelthurst*. Defs. admit With’s right—grant to him and heirs and receive 100 marks for concession.”

In the chartularies of Speldhurst we read of a famous house (The Hollands), situate where now are the Spa grounds, but of which there is no trace left. Here resided

¹ There is an entry in the Parish-book, “Jo. Cossam, for a vane, £1 7s. 11d.,” under date 1694. I find no reference to any before or after.—[ED.]

² People inhabiting the Hundred of Washlingstone claimed the privilege to have no soldiers quartered on them except on the march, but the charter, if it ever existed, has long been lost.—[ED.]

Sir Thomas Holland, whose wife, Joan, daughter of Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, was the "Fair Maid of Kent." The Holland family are described as being great benefactors to the Parish Church until the time of Henry V., when the Wallers succeeded them. In the reign of James I. it passed to the Earls of Dorset, from them to the Lindsays, and to the Caldecots in the time of Charles II.

The "Fair Maid" brought this estate, as well as the Earldom of Kent, to her husband, to whom she was married after a divorce from the Earl of Salisbury, and it is to her that some historians attribute the foundation of the Order of the Garter. On the death of her second husband she remained a widow for only one year, and then married Edward the Black Prince, whom she survived.

The later history of the manor finds the Camfield family in possession; Lewis of Westerham, *temp.* Georges I. and II.; Sir George Kelly, *temp.* George III.; Elizabeth Shorey, also *temp.* George III.; subsequently Baden Powell and his descendants—Charles Watson Powell at the present time. This manor, as we learn from the Courts Baron, is entitled to a heriot relief and the quit rents, amounting in 1772 to £11 2s. 9½d.

Another famous house in this parish was Rust-hall. Elias Rust de Rust-hall was proprietor *temp.* Edward I., and a good benefactor to Groombridge Chantry or Chapel. The last Rust was Mayor of Faversham, *temp.* Henry VI., when the manor passed to the Wallers, who held it till 1586. The Stacys were the next possessors, who sold it to Robert Byng, of Wrotham (died its owner 1597). Some generations later it went to Richard Constable, of Groombridge, who soon sold it to Sir Francis Dashwood, through whom it was conveyed, *temp.* George II., to Conyers, thence to O'Connor, whose son John sold it to George Kelly, High Sheriff (Knighted

1762). Dying in 1772, he left his three sisters co-heiresses—Ann Shorey, Hannah Tanner, and Martha Spragg. Through them it devolved on Thomas C. Gardiner. A Court Leet and a Court Baron are held for this manor. It was here that the Roundheads gained a firm footing. Cromwell settled many of his “Ironsides” on Mount Ephraim, and on Mounts Calverley and Sion, just over the Tonbridge border, when the Royalists located themselves in Southborough.

Adam’s well is situate in this manor ; it was famous long before the Tunbridge Wells waters were discovered (which ought to have been called Speldhurst Wells, as they rise in this parish), and issues from high ground at Langton. In much repute in ancient times, it is impregnated with no mineral, saline, nitrous, or earthy matter whatever, is quite free from sediments, and was called in old times a “Holy water.” In 1765 the owner of this well, on digging into the rock to enlarge the pool or bath, came upon an ancient stone arch, whose date could be but mere matter of conjecture. This arch can be seen at the present day.

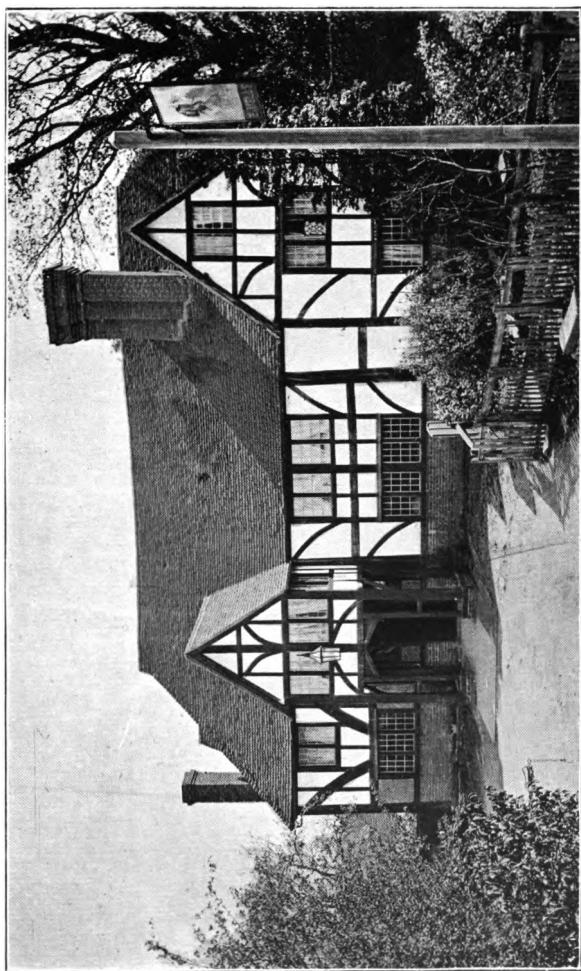
Ferbies was another Speldhurst manor, belonging to John de Fereby, *temp.* Edwards II. and III. The name was changed later to Ferby, and *temp.* Henry VI. the Ferbys sold it to Richard Waller, whose descendants passed it, *temp.* Charles I., to Richard Chiverton ; later it went to the Woodgates, and to the Durrants of Frantfield.

The two manors of East and West Ewehurst, in this parish, were once in the hands of the Reads of Marden (Sir Robert Read was Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas *temp.* Henry VII.), from whom it passed by marriage to Willoughby, and in the reign of James I. to Nat. Studley, thence to the Knights of Westerham, the Sidneys, Sir Brownlow Sherard, William Percy, and John Shelley Sidney. A Court Baron was held for each of these manors.

Yet another place of importance in this parish was Nealhampton, belonging, *temp.* Elizabeth, to Sir Richard Sackville; from him it passed to Thomas Smith of Westonhanger, Sir Thomas Smith of Sutton-at-Home (a great benefactor to the parish), and subsequently to the Earls of Darnley.

Although the very sites of all these notable places have disappeared, there are still evidences of antiquity to be observed in several fine old farmhouses, such as Turks or Church Farm, Rock Farm, Silcocks, &c., which date from the reign of Henry VIII. or thereabouts, and are rich in timber work, chimney corners, and *iron* fire-backs, for it must be remembered that close to the parish there were several iron workings, such as Barden, in the days before the coalfields of the North were discovered, and when the immense Forest of Andred, on whose borders we lay, supplied the material for smelting. A few cottages, such as those at Smallbrook, the Bote Cottages, and the thatched cottages at Etherton Hill, date back to that period or even earlier; but the "George and Dragon" inn at Speldhurst is a special feature of the Parish, and is said to have seen the days of the third Edward, while tradition, which should never be despised, especially in rural spots, tells us that the Kentish bowmen of the place who were among the heroes of Agincourt held revel there after returning victorious from France in a spacious hall with the fire logs in the centre and the smoke escaping through the roof, under which a gigantic beam of oak that can hardly have a rival crossed, and still crosses, the entire space.¹

¹ The "Red Lion" at Lower Green, though not mentioned in the Parish archives, is an ancient structure, the licence of which dates from 1415. Mr. Trussell, the host, obtained this fact from the late Mr. Morris, of the Inland Revenue.—[Ed.]



"GEORGE AND DRAGON" INN, SPELDHURST.

[To face page 36.]

A description of the Rectory, older than them all, will follow under the heading of "The Glebe."

We now reach perhaps the most interesting part of our work, which deals principally with the vicissitudes of the advowson.

The first notice of patronage occurs in the reign of Henry III., when Walter de la Dene possessed the advowson and in 1255, by a deed to which "Sir Robert" then Rector was witness, granted it to Walter Fitzwalter who could only have retained it for a brief period, as in 1264 we find Roger de Padlesworth mentioned as patron. In the earlier part of the reign of Edward III., when its value is recorded to have been eleven marks, we find that both church and manor of Speldhurst (with that of Harwarton too) were the property of Sir John de Pulteney, who in 1346 settled both church and manor on his College of St. Laurence Pountney, in the City of London. The letters patent by which the Royal licence was given for this appropriation were signed by Edward III. on the 1st of July, 1346, at Sandwich, when about to sail on that expedition to France which resulted in the victory of Crécy. The document is the most circumstantial in detail of any endowment of a rectory to a college extant. By it we find that Hamo, then Bishop of Rochester, at the instance and petition of Sir John Poultney by his instrument under seal, dated at Trottersclyffe, May 25th, 1346—7, appropriated the church and rectory to the College of Corpus Christi for ever, reserving out of it nevertheless a fit portion to the perpetual Vicar serving in it, to be presented to the Bishop and his successors by the master or guardian and the chaplains of the said college, by which he might be supported decently, and be enabled to discharge the episcopal dues and the burdens incumbent on him; and he

decreed that they should take possession of the said church immediately on the death or cession of Sir Thomas then Rector of it (whom he by no means intended to prejudice by this appropriation), without any further licence or authority obtained for that purpose; saving nevertheless and reserving to himself and his successors canonical obedience from the master, &c., on account of their holding this church as aforesaid, and the visitation of the same and other rights due to the church of Rochester, the Bishop of the same, and also to the Archdeacon of the place, and all other rights and customs in everything whatsoever; and saving and reserving in the said church a perpetual vicarage, which he then decreed should take effect at the death or resignation of the Rector thereof.

And he willed that a fit and competent portion should be assigned out of the Parish rents and produce of it to such Vicar to serve therein who should first be presented by the said master, &c., to be instituted and admitted by the Bishop or his successor into it before his admission into the same, according as circumstances required, to the use of him and his successors for ever.

And he willed and decreed that the said portion should for ever consist of and in the tithes of silver caedua, pannage, apples and fruits of other trees, hay, herbage, flax, hemp, wool, milk, butter and cheese, lambs, calves, pigs, swans, pigeons, bees, fowlings, huntings, mills, fisheries, merchandizes, and in all other small tithes and dues of the church, oblations and obventions whatsoever belonging to the altarage, together with competent buildings situate on the soil of the church, to be assigned for the habitation of the Vicar, and in which the visitors of the ordinary might be commodiously received.

And he willed and decreed that the Vicar for the time

being (after the books and vestments belonging by custom to the Rector to provide should have been sufficiently provided by the said master, &c.) should cause the said books to be bound and the vestments to be washed, repaired, and amended as often as need should be ; and should find and provide at his own expense bread, wine, and processional tapers, and the accustomed attendants in the said church ; and should keep and maintain in a proper state at his own costs, the buildings allotted to his vicarage, after they should once have been sufficiently repaired and assigned as a habitation for himself and his successors ; and should wholly pay all episcopal dues and archidiaconal procurations, and should undergo and acknowledge all other extraordinary burthens which should be incumbent or laid on him according to the taxation of his portion, which, so far as related to them, he estimated and taxed at 60*s.* sterling, but that the said master should undergo and acknowledge at his and their own costs for ever all other ordinaries and extraordinaries according to the taxation of their portion, which he estimated at six marks and a half.

Lastly, that his cathedral church of Rochester might not be in any manner hurt or prejudiced by this appropriation, he, in recompense of such loss as it might happen to receive from it, either in the not receiving the profits of it whilst it should become vacant or otherwise, reserved a certain annual pension of 7*s.* sterling¹ from this church to him and his successors, to be yearly paid at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the said master, &c.,

¹ When I became Rector, I contended that, as Speldhurst is no longer in the Diocese of Rochester, the pension should cease. After several years' correspondence, the question was settled by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who wrote to me, under date the 15th of March, 1892, that, "under all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners will not require payment of the pension."—[ED.]

as soon as they should have obtained effectual and full possession of the same, which pension of 7*s.*, as above mentioned, was by William the master or guardian of the said college and the chaplains of the same, by their instrument under their common seal, dated four days after the above appropriation acknowledged and confirmed to the Bishop and his successors for ever, with power of distress for recovering the same and all the arrearage of it.

On the 8th of June following, Sir William de Chetwode, master of the college, appeared before the Bishop in his great chamber of the Manor of Halling and obtained the Bishop's letter directed to the Archdeacons for putting him as proctor for himself and his college in corporal possession of the church of Speldhurst.

This arrangement lasted from 1346 to 1448, during which time, if we except the important events following the arrival of the Duke of Orleans in the parish, and the subsequent restoration of the church by him, we know practically nothing of the history of the Parish. The Rectors of course during all this time were non-resident—at least since the death or cession of "Sir Thomas"—as they were the successive masters of the Pulteney (or Pountney) College in London.

In 1448, however, the profits and income of the Vicars, having in process of time become scarcely sufficient for their decent support, and there being a probability of matters becoming even worse, John Thurstan, then Rector and Master of Pountney College, that the cure of souls might be better served, renounced and gave up all right, title, and possession which, by reason of the appropriation above mentioned, they had or might have in future in the said church, in the name of himself and his college, the right of patronage of the same only excepted or reserved; and they granted that every incumbent or curate of the church to be

by them presented and to be admitted and instituted by the ordinary of the place, should have in future all tithes, great as well as small, belonging of ancient time to the said church, or to them by reason of the said appropriation, as also all rights, produce, and emoluments, however accruing or to accrue, late belonging to the vicarage of it, so that he, the incumbent for the time being, should for the future undergo, pay, support, and acknowledge all burthens, ordinary and extraordinary, due and accustomed, belonging to or incumbent on the said church or on them by reason of the same.

The instrument for this purpose, under their common seal, bore date March 4th, 1448, and was ratified and confirmed by John Lowe, Bishop of Rochester, on the 8th of that month, saving nevertheless the pension of 7*s.* paid to the Bishop and his successors from it, which in future should continue to be paid by the Rector of this church for the time being, or whoever should be in possession of the great tithes of the same, under whatever name he should be entitled to them.

In consequence of which, Richard Barker, the Vicar of this church, on the 9th of that month, resigned his vicarage into the hands of the Bishop of Rochester, who that day admitted and instituted him Rector on the presentation of the said Master and Chaplains of the College of St. Laurence Poultney, of the Church of Speldhurst, together with all its appurtenances, tithes, and profits as well great belonging formerly to the said master, &c., as oblations and small tithes belonging to the Vicar of it, the pension of 7*s.* due and accustomed to be paid to the Bishop and his successors yearly to the said church, reserved, nevertheless, and excepted; and that he should have all emoluments whatsoever which of ancient times belonged as well to the rectory as the vicarage, and should undergo and acknowledge the tenths due to the King, the above spiritual

pension to the Bishop of Rochester, the reparation of the chancel, and all other burdens whatsoever belonging to or incumbent on the said church.

In these interesting and uniquely detailed documents of 1346 and 1448 we find a great variety of spelling in the name of the parish, Speldhurste, Speldherste, Speldherst, Spelderherst, Speldeherst, Spelhurst, and Speldhurst all appearing; and if we add the earlier spellings of Splephurst, Speldhurst, Speldehurst, Spelthurst, and Spelthyrst, ringers will allow we have accomplished a very fair peal of changes.

Besides the 7s. so tenaciously insisted on as a pension to Rochester in the preceding documents, it was usual for every parish priest in the diocese to make an annual payment in honour of the cathedral, and as a sign of submission to the Bishop's seat. It was also customary for him to appear in person or by his curate in the procession at Whitsuntide and offer at the high altar. The country clergy sought to evade the duty, while the Bishop and Prior tried to enforce it.¹

John of Bottlesham, Bishop in 1402, granted all who should attend, an indulgence of forty days from penance enjoined, and threatened the disobedient with suspension. In 1452, thirty-seven delinquents were cited to the court on this business. Some satisfactorily accounted for their absence, while others were fined 6d. to the sacrist for a pound of wax and 8d. to the Bishop for a flask of wine! The Rector of Speldhurst (Richard Barker) excused himself by saying he had two funerals to perform on the day in question (Whit Tuesday), and was expecting two christenings.

After the disappropriation of 1448 the patronage of the

¹ If the facilities for communication between Speldhurst and Rochester were not greater in those days than in these, I am in complete sympathy with the Speldhurst clergy.—[ED.]

Church of Speldhurst remained, with the manor, part of the possessions of the above-named college till the suppression in 1548, and the incumbency of Speldhurst was frequently held by the Head of the college.

At the time of the Valor Ecclesiasticus (26 Hen. VIII.), Speldhurst was valued as follows :—

1535. Johannes Blakden (Master of					
the College and Rector)	...	XV.		XIIIs.	
Rochester deduct.		VIIIs.	
et rem.	XV.	Vs.	
Decima inde [Tenths]	...			XXXs.	VI.

In 1540 the college granted a lease of their Manor of Speldhurst at a rent of £2 16s. 8d. per annum to Sir William Waller, while at the suppression 1548 (2 Edward VI.), it was granted, among other premises, by the name of the Manor of Speldhurst, together with the patronage of the church appendent to it as a parcel of the College of St. Laurence Pountney, to Henry Polsted.

How the manor subsequently passed does not transpire ; but it eventually devolved to the name of Goodhugh, and in the reign of George I. (1714—1727) Richard Goodhew passed it by marriage to Richard Round, whose son Richard, of Stompel, in Seal, died possessed of it, and it was subsequently held by the trustees of his infant children. Mrs. Ann Shorey, died 1796, aged 88, and buried in Speldhurst Churchyard, was lady of the manor. Shortly after that time it passed into the Powell family, and the present possessor is Charles Watson Powell.

About the time that James I. came to the throne (1603), the patronage of Speldhurst Church was separated from the manor, and the advowson came into the hands of the Weston family. [Edward Weston, Rector, 1609, succeeded by John Weston, 1641. Henry Weston, Esq., was Patron,

1653; see *Cromwell's letter posted*. William Weston, Rector 1679—1683.] The Kearsley family next possessed it [James Kearsley, Rector, 1728—1768]; and then it passed to Scawen, of Carshalton, whose daughter, Tryphena, carried it by marriage in 1759 to Henry Earl of Bathurst, who sold it in 1779 to the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst [Rector, 1787—1816]. The latter sold it in 1792 to Robert Burgess of Leigh, who died possessed of it in 1794 leaving his wife Mrs. Sarah Burgess surviving, who, marrying again with James Harbroe, entitled him to the patronage. On his death it returned to his widow, who in 1830 presented her sister's son the Rev. John James Saint on the death of the Rev. William Gordon [Rector, 1816—1830]. Mr. Saint became himself patron in 1843 on the death of his aunt, and at his death in 1889 left the advowson to his three daughters, Mrs. Streatfeild (since deceased), Miss Elizabeth, and Miss Louisa Saint. These ladies in 1889 presented the Rev. Donald D. Mackinnon, the present Rector.

In the register chest at Speldhurst is preserved a very interesting abstract of the modus in lieu of tithes for this Parish, which I shall venture to print *in extenso*.

It was established by trial in prohibition between James Jeffery and George Ellyott or Eliott [Rector, 1558—1609], in the third year of James I. [1605—6]. The proceedings in prohibition are recorded in the Court of Common Pleas, Westminster Roll, 132—134. The jury find:

“That any parishioner or occupier of lands in Speldhurst, having any number of cows and not having 7 calves from the said cows in one year, ought to pay every year *upon request* of the Rector, farmer, or deputy of the Rector for the time being, for the fall of calves brought forth of those cows, the sum of *one penny* if the said Rector, &c., would take it; or if the said parishioners, &c., have fewer than 7

calves in one year (and the Rector, &c., would not take *one penny* of such parishioner, &c.), then he shall pay no tithe or recompense until he shall have of those cows or other his cows in any year following, so many calves as will complete or make up with the calves of such parishioner brought forth in any year or years then past not tithed, or any recompense paid for the tithe of the same, the number of 10 calves.

“And when and as soon as such parishioner, &c., shall have the number of 10 calves in several years in form aforesaid, brought forth and completed, then such parishioner, &c., should deliver to the Rector, &c., the tenth calf for refusing one penny for the fall of such calf or calves of such parishioner, &c., brought forth in several years.

“And if any parishioner, &c., have in any year 7, 8, or 9 calves brought forth and completed, then, if the Rector, &c., *require* of such parishioner, &c., shall deliver to the Rector, &c., so requiring one of those 7, 8, or 9 calves any time after such calf shall be of the age of five weeks, or within the age of two months; and the said Rector so receiving one of those 7, 8, or 9 calves shall pay to him so delivering one of those calves the sum of one penny for each and every calf wanting of 10 calves in full discharge of all tithes of the calves of the said cows for one year.

“For the tithe of milk, butter and cheese, to pay *upon request* being made by the Rector, &c., the sum of one half-penny per year for each cow kept by any parishioner, &c.

“For the pasture of barren cattle, not being draught cattle, *upon request* being made by the Rector, &c., one penny per year.

“And for grass growing and mowed, and for hay made thereof in and for every acre of meadow land, the sum of three half-pence per acre per year in full discharge of all and singular the pastures of barren cattle and of hay.

"And for eggs, chickens, ducklings, and goslings, the sum of one penny per year in full discharge of all and singular the tithes of eggs, chickens, ducklings, and goslings brought forth by any hens, ducks, or geese kept by any parishioner, &c., upon request being made by the Rector, &c.

"For the herbs of orchards and gardens, the sum of one penny per year *upon request*, &c.

"For the tithes of hemp, one penny per year *upon request*, &c.

"All timber trees of the growth of twenty years and upward pay no tithe whatever.

"All underwood or other trees, or any wood cut for the purpose and used for making and repairing of hedges in the Parish, pays no tithe or recompense whatever."

THE GLEBE HOUSE AND GLEBE.

A brief account of the Rectory, &c., may be inserted here. That there was a glebe house in very remote times is evident, if only from the fact that the present Rectory contains within its recesses a King John oak-post supported on a stone pillar in the foundations of the same date, the axe marks fixing the date to be of the early thirteenth century. This house, however, like many others of similar character, fell into great disrepair during the long period of the Wars of the Roses, and it was not till 1490 that it was thoroughly restored or, more probably, rebuilt; the roof timbers in that part of it which is shown in the wood-cut being our principal guide for the date, the curious entrance porch and cater-wise chimneys being both of the same period. There are traces of further work among the interior timbers about the time of James I. In 1830 the Rev. J. J. Saint added several rooms on the south-east side, and about forty years later built a west wing.



THE RECTORY, SPELDHURST.
(15th Century Portion.)

[To face page 46.]

As for the rest of the glebe property, the register chest contains a "Terrier of the glebe lands and other possessions belonging to the Church of Speldhurst, in the County of Kent and Diocese of Rochester." It is a transcription from an old parchment register-book,¹ ending about the year 1700, and is attested to by John Cornwall,² Rector, 6th January, 1723.

The Terrier enumerates: "A parsonage house, brewhouse, barn, stable, orchard and garden, churchyard [which received an addition on the north side in 1859], three peices or parcels of land called the Went, containing about eight acres; one little close called the Pite'let, containing about one quarter of an acre.³ Two peices or parcels of land call'd the Birchetts, containing about six acres; with a coppice adjoyning containing about one acre and one half; the glebe lands containing about 17 acres."

With regard to the glebe lands, these have now been reduced to about eight and a half acres. The Rev. Francis Pott, now owner of the Birchetts, has courteously supplied me with the following information:—

The said land (glebe at Birchetts), partly meadow and

¹ The said book still exists, and dates from 1538, the year in which Thomas Cromwell ordered registers to be kept in the parish churches. The last entry in it is dated 1701, but the page containing the "Terrier" is missing.—[ED.]

² This Dr. Cornwall was Rector from the 8th of June, 1693, till his death. He was buried here the 9th of September, 1724. I have in my possession a printed sermon preached before the University of Cambridge at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, the 18th of May, 1701, by John Cornwall, D.D., Rector of Speldhurst, and preacher at Tunbridge Wells Chapel, in Kent.

³ Formerly called also the Ringers' Plat, because the belfry men were allowed to gather fruit, &c., from it. At the time probably of the excambion referred to later, the men received a regular payment in money for their services from the churchwardens in lieu of this.—[ED.]

partly wood, did up to 1805 form part of the Rector's glebe ; but documents now in Mr. Pott's possession show that it was then regularly and legally alienated, with all proper consents, by the Rev. Robert Gunsley Ayerst, then Rector, by sale to William Gordon, clerk (then Curate and next Rector), in order that with the purchase money he might redeem the land-tax payable on the whole of his glebe lands.

In the reference-book to the Parish map surveyed by W. Budgen, 1818, there occurs : "*Glebe*, by the Rev. Wm. Gordon, 666 Birchett Wood 2 A. 2 R. 13 P. and *glebe* by W. Gasson 667 Birchett field 5 A. 2 R. 20 P." But the term "*glebe*" must have been a mistake. The glebe at the Went and the Pite'let was transferred by a process of excambion to the present site in 1863 by the Rev. J. J. Saint. As to the brewhouse, I have no record.

VARIOUS PARISH NOTES.

The following will speak for itself ; it is printed in Carlyle's "*Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*."

"For my honoured friend Henry Weston, Esquire, at his house in Oakham ; these :—

" ' WHITEHALL,' 16th November, 1653.

"SIR, MY NOBLE FRIEND,

"Your brother Ford was lately with me, acquainting me with my presumption in moving for, and your civility in granting the advowson of Speldhurst to one Mr. Draper, who is now incumbent there, and who it seems was there for three or four years before the death of the old incumbent by virtue of a sequestration. Sir, I had almost forgot upon what account I made thus bold with you ; but now have fully recollected. I understand the person is very able and honest, well approved by most of the good ministers thereabout ; and much desired by the honest people who are in a Religious Association thereabouts. Wherefore I now

most heartily own and thank you for your favour shewed to Mr. Draper for my sake ; beseeching the continuance of your respects to the gentleman,—who shall be very much tied to pay you all service ; and so shall, in what lieth in his power.

“ Your affectionate friend to save you,
“ OLIVER CROMWELL.”

[Additional Ayscough, MSS., No. 12098. A copy in an old hand, with this endorsement : “ The General Cromwell’s letter about Speldhurst living ” ; and this note appended : “ In an old Bible I had from England with other Books, March, 1726 ”]. Carlyle comments : “ Some Transatlantic Puritan, to all appearances.”

As we have seen, the Weston family held the patronage for about 100 years from *circ.* 1600. I find that Thomas Draper witnessed churchwardens’ accounts in 1652—6. The registers contain hardly any entries of baptisms, marriages, or burials in his time ; in fact, several years are quite blank. He was ejected in 1660.

“ Archæologia Cantiana ” supplies me with the following :—

“ Amongst the documents in the Public Record Office relating to the reign of Henry VIII. are two volumes which contain the signatures of the secular clergy to the declaration that ‘ The Bishop of Rome hath no greater jurisdiction committed to him by God in this realm than any foreign Bishop. ’ ”

This declaration, engrossed in Latin at the head of sheets of parchment, was signed by the clergy in each deanery. The signatures are undated, but internal evidence shows that they must have been obtained in the first half of 1534.

In the Deanery of Malling appears :—

“ Dominus Thomas Portyngton, Rector Eccleie de Speldhurst.” I do not know the exact date of this Rector’s

institution, but John Blakden was instituted December 15th, 1534, on the resignation of Thomas Portyngton.

FLORENTIUS VOLUSMUS.

I had some correspondence lately with regard to the above—called by later writers Florence Wilson—as to the question if he were ever Rector of Speldhurst. In the fragment of a letter from him dated 1530–1 to Thomas Cromwell, preserved in the Bannatyne MS. British Museum, he says: “I commend humbly Nicholas Fedderston *my proctor of Spelhur* . . . beseeching you to help and succour him in his need.” I can find no trace in the Parish books of either Wilson or his proctor.

TRADERS' TOKENS.

In an interesting work published some years since I found that no less than 12,712 of these tokens were known to have been issued between 1648 and 1679, and at no other period. Of these 595 came from the county of Kent; no other county in the British Isles had so many save Middlesex. In London there were 3,543; in the whole of Ireland, 779; two only in the Isle of Man; and in the whole of Scotland, one.

They represent an effort on the part of the people to supply themselves with small change (the value ranging from one to five farthings). Successive Governments had shown themselves indifferent to the needs of the people. As the value of silver rose, the unit of currency became smaller and less convenient. It was considered beneath the dignity of the Crown to issue any baser metal than silver, and the state of affairs became intolerable.

Therefore these tokens—an illegal money of necessity—were issued by all the principal tradesmen in the more important towns and villages of the kingdom.

By this means they forced the Legislature to comply with demands at once just and imperative.

These coins were all of bronze. Speldhurst issued one, and I am very fortunate in being the possessor of a specimen.

On the obverse is, "Tho. Soane, mercer, 1668," with an unicorn; on the reverse, "in Speldhurst in Kent his half penny."

PLEA ROLLS.

In the Plea Rolls of 25 Henry III. (1241), which preceded "Justices in Eyre," Furley records the following, which relates to our Parish:—

"Lathe of Sutton, Hundred of Somerden.

"A man went from the house of William de Algaresdenne towards his own house at Speldhurst, and it is said he was slain, as he has never been seen since. Two persons, a man and a woman, were suspected, but as it is unknown whether he was killed or not, as no one *saw him dead*; let them be committed to gaol till it be enquired in Sussex upon the Hundred of Hertefelde (Hartfield), where it was said he was carried by them and buried.

"The man, arrested afterwards, confessed that he was present when the murdered man was killed. Another man charged with the murder was committed to the charge of a borwisher¹ with all his borough² and escaped; therefore they were in mercy. No Englishry³ &c."

¹ Or borsholder, from borhes and ealder. Borhes=pledges or sureties. Ealder=head or elder. An office in Saxon and subsequent times. One man answered for nine other men with their families that they should keep the peace. Ten times these made the "hundred," over which the "constable" presided. In Edward III.'s time the borsholder was called a petty constable.—[ED.]

² Borough=surety, bail.

³ Englishry=privilege of being an Englishman.

"A murderer was outlawed 'at the third county (court) without the coroners'; therefore to be judged concerning the county, and likewise concerning the coroners, because they were not present at the county (court) to execute their office."

"A man's son was run over by a dung-cart."

These last two catastrophes occurred at Speldhurst.

Nicholas Speltehurste, alias Arnold, got a pension of XLs. per annum from the late Monastery of Rochester at the suppression, 1536.

THE WELLS.

These, rising in *Speldhurst Parish*, were discovered by Lord North, *temp.* James I., though Adam's well, as we have seen, was known long before the others.

Later, Queen Henrietta Maria came here in 1630 by order of her physicians, and the waters were much frequented by Charles II. and James II. with their Courts. Queens Mary and Anne also patronised them.

In 1684 a chapel was built on some ground given by Viscountess Purbeck, and enlarged 1696 at a cost of £2,300. It stands in the two counties of Kent and Sussex, and in the three parishes of Tunbridge, Speldhurst, and Frant. At first the preachership was in the nomination of the incumbents of those parishes. Subsequently it passed into the hands of trustees, amongst whom we find John Elton, Rector of Speldhurst in 1727, while his predecessor, as we have seen, was preacher. The font being situated in the Parish of Speldhurst, the entries in the register of baptisms used to be sent here to be copied into the Speldhurst registers until the early part of last century. The late Queen, when Princess Victoria, used to attend this chapel frequently between the years 1827 and 1834, her

seat being at the west end of the north gallery, and therefore in Speldhurst Parish. Her daughter, Princess Louise, we may here mention, used often to attend Speldhurst Church at the time when she was resident at Dornden, Langton Green, and was a subscriber to the candelabra (before mentioned) placed in the sanctuary to the memory of the late Rector.

In 1882 the chapel, which is noted for its antique and elaborately-carved ceiling, underwent a thorough restoration as a memorial to the Rev. W. L. Pope, minister there 1829—1879. It is one of six churches in England dedicated to King Charles the Martyr.

TUNBRIDGE WARE

was first designed in the reign of Elizabeth, it is said, and received its early encouragement from the Walsinghams of Somerhill. It is principally made from beech and sycamore, inlaid with yew, holly, cherry, and plum, and beautifully polished.

NOTES BY PARISH CLERKS AND SEXTONS.

These are often quaint and comic, but by no means valueless, for they shed a light on prices, manners, and customs of the old times which, perhaps, can be gained from no other source. Let us look at a few.

1601. A Book of Articles, viii^d. 1658. One hundred shingles [for the church spire], x^d. 1660. For the King's Arms, £2 1s. 0d. To Still the joyner for the frame, 10s. 1661. Prayer Book for the Queen's Majesty, 8s. 10d. To Thos. Humphrey for a badger's head, 1s. 1663. For a hedgehog, 1s. For a pulpit cloth and binding y^e great Bible, £1 12s. 0d. 1667. For killing 4 young foxes, 4s. 1668. Three Jewish women with a pass (money and victuals, 1s. 6d.). 1671. Francis Turner's daughter when

she went to be touched for the Evil, 5*s.* Sands the porter for going with her, 1*s.* 6*d.* 1677. Nine passengers who had the small-pox, 2*s.* Quarterly tax for the speedy building of 30 ships of war, 3*s.* 1681. Chains and fastenings for y^e Book at y^e Desk, 1*s.* 6*d.* 1683. Twelve passengers retaken by the "Duty" from the Turks, 2*s.* 1686. Twenty poor men a company from Ireland, 3*s.* 1688. Book of Thanksgiving for birth of Prince of Wales, 1*s.* 6*d.* [and immediately afterwards!], Prayer for K. William and Q. Mary, 1*s.* 1689. Refreshing ourselves at the gathering of the Irish Briefs, 1*s.* 6*d.* 1690. Five poor Dutchmen, 2*s.* 6*d.* 1692. Nine wounded seamen, 1*s.* 6*d.* 1693. For letting of John King's blood, 6*d.* 1695. A pair of Stocks and a Whipping-post and setting up, 14*s.* 1696. King's tax for Wilson's Burial, 4*s.* 1699. To Rich. Brooker for works about y^e church, 5*s.* 10*d.* 1702. Two Fast-Books and order for putting Princess Sophia into the Common Prayer, 2*s.* 1703. Spent upon the Borsholder and his assistants when two great-bellied women were had before the Justice, 2*s.* 1705. For a polecat, 3*d.* 2,500 heart-laths, £2 10*s.* 0*d.* 500 sap-laths, 5*s.* 10*d.* 18 dogs of iron for steeple (297 lbs.), £5. 1708. A young man for leading Diamond, blind, to Tonbridge, 6*d.* 1711. A man, his wife, and 12 children taken prisoners in France, 2*s.* 1717. 52 hedgehogs, 8*s.* 8*d.* 1718. Trouble and charge when long Mother Card got into my house and was forced to be removed, 5*s.* (!). 1722. A man and his wife and 12 children that come out of New England, 2*s.* 6*d.* 1723. Relieved 85 seamen and 1 lame soldier in the year, with passes, 17*s.* 1724. 96 seamen, Do. 1733. Spent upon the young people that were Bishop^t [confirmed], 11*s.* 1730. 4 sailors hurt by lightning, 2*s.*, and 19 Turkey slaves, 4*s.* 1729. For scaling the church, £13. 5,000 shingles, £8 15*s.* 6*d.*

Let us now skip a few years and take a glance at the parish clerk's note-book, *circ.* 1770—1780. Be it remembered that the clerk in those days had the onerous duties of looking after the Poor-house, which stood a few paces from the present Rusthall Mission Chapel.

Here are a few items showing the cost of various articles 130 years ago :—

1 oz. *pepper*, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$; 1 gallon of *yest* [yeast], 1s. 6d. ; 1 bushel of *oats*, 3s. ; 1 bushel of *beans*, 2s. 9d. ; 1 lb. of *soap*, 7d. ; 1 lb. of *lump sugar*, 8d. ; 1 lb. of *Warwick cheese*, $4\frac{1}{2}d.$; 1 oz. of *nutmegs*, 9d. ; 1 lb. of *tobacco*, 1s. 3d. ; 1 lb. of *Darby cheese*, $4\frac{1}{2}d.$; 1 lb. of *corrains* [currants], 7d. ; 1 oz. of *russet yarn*, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$; 1 lb. of *beef*, $3\frac{3}{4}d.$; 1 sack of *flour*, 35s. ; 1 lb. of *flax*, 9d. ; 1 bushel of *malt*, 5s. ; 1 lb. of *sugar*, 5d. ; 1 bushel of *bran*, 6d. ; 1 lb. of *candles*, 1s. 3d. ; 1 gallon of *salt*, 8d. ; 1 bushel of *oatmeal*, 7s. ; 1 pint of *oyle*, 6d. ; 1 oz. of *snuff*, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$; 1 bushel of *apples*, 2s. ; 1 lb. of *old Chester cheese*, $5\frac{1}{4}d.$; 1 lb. of *butter*, 8d. ; 1 lb. of *rope yarn*, 3d. ; 1 lb. of *carraway seeds*, 6d. ; 1 lb. of *raisons* [raisins], 4d. ; 1 oz. of *pins*, $2\frac{1}{4}d.$; 1 cord of *hedgewood*, 11s. 6d. ; 1 pint of *canary seed*, 4d. ; a new *keeler* [tub ?], 4s. ; a *clock line*, 1s. ; 1 bushel of *pollard* [mixture of bran and meal], 1s. ; 1 pair of *pattings* [pattens], 1s. ; an *apron and strings*, 2s. 2d. ; 1 lb. of *suet*, $3\frac{3}{4}d.$; 1 oz. of *sennah*, 4d. ; 1 lb. of *treakel* [*sic*], 4d. ; 1 bushel of *pees* [*sic*], 5s. ; a pint of *red sand*, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$; a hundred of *faggots*, 10s. ; 1 lb. of *thread*, 2s. 4d. ; a *line of vell* [loin of veal], 4s. 5d. ; a *pair of breeches*, 2s. 6d. ; 1 ell of *cloth*, 1s. 4d. ; *sweeping the chimney*, 1s. ; 1 lb. of *packthread*, 1s. ; an ell of *shirting*, 1s. 3d. ; 1 lb. of *mutton*, $4\frac{1}{4}d.$; 1 lb. of *bull-beef*, $2\frac{1}{4}d.$; a small *tooth-come* [*sic*], 6d. ; 1 oz. *all-spice*, 3d. ; *half a hog*, £1 6s. 3d. ; for writing of 9 doz. of *letters* for Lady Smyth, 4s. 6d.

“On July 13th, 1773, Ann Gates came to the house to

me. On Oct. 10th Ann Gates' child deceased half an hour past 10 o'clock in the evening. On Oct. 14th Ann Gates' child was buried before Eve's Gate. On Oct. 16th Ann Gates went from me. On Oct. 20th she went to London."

Multifarious, indeed, were the poor man's duties ; thus—

"For two piggs and got 'em home, 14s."

"Carrying old Colehen to Church, 5s."

"Crying a sheep-faier, 4d."

"Cried a sale for the money coiners, 6d."

Still more quaint is he when in Church ; thus—

"Jan. 4, 1801. Blunder by the Minster in the Church : No Commounyon Servis read."

"Jan. 25, 1801. Being Saint Paull, insted of the Lesson for the day being the 5 chap. of Wisdom, was read for the First Lesson the 55 chap. of Isayer ; and insted of Jublet began the teadeam."

"March 8, 1801. Mr. Gordon Mist the Venet and went into the Psalms. After the First Lesson, insted of the teadeam for the morning servis begun to reed the Magnificat."

His care in marking a place of sepulture was laudable :

"On March 10, 1794, a Frenchman from T. Wells, Buired against the upper furr tree against the heage at the Back side of the Church. His name and age unknown. He was Buired by their own Sett of Minsters 5 of 'em and all sung and read there Bureal Sarvies."

"May 25th, 1801, Moses Bennett Buired jest beside Robt Cripps' head-stone next to Lacon's toomb. He Maide of with himself."

THE SCHOOLS.

Their history is best traced by means of a letter of their first master, in which he said :—

"In 1808 I commenced a school at Rusthall, and, being in the habit of attending Divine service at Speldhurst Church,

I was much struck with the misconduct of persons who were constantly waiting about the churchyard for the arrival of the clergyman, who at that time lived at Tunbridge Wells. The boys made it their playground and the young men indulged in improper language and behaviour. At Christmas, 1809, after consulting the Rector, I undertook to commence a Sunday School at Speldhurst, and hired a house for the purpose. At first the attendance was small; as it began to increase, it was thought more good might be done if a Day School were opened in addition, so I removed my Rusthall school to Speldhurst in January, 1810. . . . In 1813, my schools having greatly increased, to obtain larger premises I hired the Parsonage House, which was then unoccupied, and removed there with my family. In 1817 the Rector required his house to live in [the Rev. R. G. Ayerst, Rector, died in 1816, when his curate, the Rev. W. Gordon, succeeded him], and I hired another.¹ . . . In 1837 we removed to a new house and school-room.² . . . When I began, the numbers were: Sunday School 12; Day School 17. Now, in 1838, there are more than 100 in the former and 120 in the latter. . . ."

(Signed) "JOHN CUTHBERT."

On Mr. Cuthbert's retirement in 1839 he was succeeded by Messrs. Phelps, Grisdale, Prior (still living), Chapman, and Reed, the last of whom retired soon after the present schools were erected.

In 1858 a site was granted by Miss Woodward to the Rector and churchwardens, and the present schools and schoolhouse were built at a cost of £1,250. They were opened in 1859 by John Bird Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, who at the same time consecrated the new portion of the churchyard. Mr. J. C. Haffenden was appointed master, and, retiring in 1889, was succeeded by Mr. H. T. Chennell, the present master.

¹ Now Mr. Powell's gardener's house.

² Now the premises of Messrs. E. and O. Austen.

THE PARISH CHURCH REGISTERS.

These date from the time they were first ordered to be kept in parish churches by Thomas Cromwell, Vicar-General to Henry VIII., A.D. 1538, and are perfect with the exception of a few years at the time of the great Rebellion. Loose sheets of these have been discovered by me and placed in the book, which should have contained them. Entries are for the most part very matter of fact, and generally lack the humour sometimes displayed in the clerks' and sextons' note-books. A few, however, are worthy of notice; thus: In the burial register of 1678 appears a list of books, evidently the property of the church or Rector, which have long since disappeared. Some of the more interesting are:

"Abrogation of certain Holy Days by H. VIII., pub. 1536."

"King Edward's Injunctions, 1547."

"Do. Order of Communion Service, 1547."

"A. B. Cranmer's Articles of Visitation, 1548."

"B. Ridley's Articles of Visitation, 1550."

"Edw. VI. Articles, 1552."

"Queen Elizabeth's Injunctions, Act of Uniformity and Forms and Manners of makings and Consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons, 1559."

"Celebratio Cœna Domini funeribus, 1560."

"Table of Marriages of B. Parker, 1563."

"Apparell at y^e Communion, 1564."

"Record of schismatic, seditious books, &c., 1588."

"Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical agreed upon by Convocations at London and York, 1640," and several others.

1666. Burial Register. "A list of 'Church Marks'¹ to be maintained by various parishioners."

¹ The whole fencing is 658 feet, and the number of houses charged is ninety-three. The lengths vary from 4 to 15 feet. Phillip Packer is to maintain the gate and stile for the tenement called Redmeredge

1701. Ditto. "W^m. Hunt, *felo de se*."

1706. Ditto. "Wid. Sudds who died in y^e 100 years of her age as 'twas said."

1708. Ditto. "The Bounds of Speldhurst gone agst. Bidborough on Asc. Day by Mr. Kearsley (Rector), Rob^t Seamer S^r and Rob^t Rose. Mr. Bownd, Minister of Bidboro' and 5 or 6 men or boys of that Parish accompanying."

1709. Ditto. "The Bounds of Speldhurst agst. Tonbridge gone 30th May being Mon. in Rog. week beginning at y^e Wells Chapel and ending at y^e Birchet. Note that y^e Bounds Betwixt y^e House late Sir Thos. Janson's and a 6 or 7 acre field of John Bassett's now Sow'd with wheat goe almost in a Streight Line &c."

1713. Ditto. "Wm. Chalkline, Murther'd himself."

1714. The Form of the Certificate of an Affidavit.¹ "E. L. was not put in, wrapt, or wound up, or buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet or Shroud made or mingl'd with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver or other than what is made of Sheep's wool only, or in any Coffin lin'd or faced with any Cloth, Stuff or any other thing whatsoever made or mingl'd with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold or Silver or any other material but Sheeps wool only." Hence we find in 1723. "Bridget Mercer, wid. in Linnen for which 50s. were paid y^e Poor at y^e grave."

1737. Ditto. "Buried a child of a souldier quartered at y^e Wells."

1706. Baptism Register. "A son of John Parker dyed unbaptized" (!).

—15 feet. Langton is called Lampington. Shadwell is called Shottwell, and Church Farm "Turk's Farm."—[ED.]

¹ The law which was made for the encouragement of the wool trade came into force 1678-9, I find another entry dated 1705: "Curd Dorcas. No Aff. as Dr. Cornwall (Rector) decided at grave she was b. in Linnen."—[ED.]

1736. Ditto. "Allen & Dale Dale, baptized."

1734. "Robert son of Robert Mercer jr baptized in the Presbyterian way."

And, lastly, 1783. "Y^e Elixshener for Speldhurst Borough was Alexander ffry. Charles Stapely for y^e Wells."

CHURCH PLATE.

The old plate was said to have been melted down in the service of Charles I., and pewter used instead. The two pewter flagons and plate or alms-dish are still preserved, and one of them is inscribed: "The gift of Nicholas Reade to Speldhurst Church," but there is no date. If the Nicholas Reade, Senr., who was married here in 1573 and buried here in 1598, or if the Nicholas Reade buried here in 1599, were the donor of the pewter vessels, we must date them back to a period long anterior to the great Rebellion. A set of silver plate must have been subsequently purchased or presented, for the church plate was stolen on the 1st of December, 1837, and replaced by subscription in 1838 with the present sacred vessels, which have recently been supplemented by a Chalice and Paten, the gift of the Rev. Francis and Miss Pott, of Birchetts.

THE CHARITIES.

1. Sir Thomas Smythe's; by whose will proved October 12th, 1625, six poor people, being Communicants, receive each a quartern loaf in church after service every Sunday in the year. The bequest amounts to £13 10s. per annum, and is divided between the different districts of which the Parish now consists. A further sum of £25 per annum is apportioned in like manner and spent in either increasing the number of loaves, blankets at Christmas, or according to the discretion of the incumbent and churchwardens. A

residue is administered by trustees of various parishes entitled to a share in the Smythe benefaction, and the whole is under the management of the Skinners' Company.

2. Miss Booth (died 1837) and Miss Sarah Burrows (died 1843). The bequests of these ladies combined have served to produce income sufficient to give six poor widows (and one at Groombridge) the sum of 10s. each, which they receive in the vestry before service annually on Christmas Day.

INDENTURE.

There happens to be preserved among our papers a curious form of indenture which used to be drawn up in the case of engaging a workhouse servant. As it is 215 years old I think it worth while to insert it *in extenso*.

"This Indenture made the first daie of May in the third year of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord James the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, Anno Domino 1687, between John Jeffery and Edward Golsmith, Churchwardens of the parish of Speldhurst in the county of Kent, and John ffry and Robert Brooks overseers for the poore of the said parish on the one part, and William Jeffery and Easter Jeffery of Tunbridge in the County aforesaid, of the other part, witnesseth that the said churchwardens and overseers by and with the consent and approbation of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County whose names are hereunto subscribed, have put and bound out and by their presents do put and bind out Elizabeth Hollamby, a poore child of the said p'ish and now chargeable, apprentice to and with the said William Jeffery and Easter Jeffery, and with whom to dwell and serve from the nine and twentieth day of April last past before the date hereof until shee shall accomplish her age of one and twenty years, or day of marriage,

according to the forme of the statute in that as provided in and during which said time and form the said apprentice will and faithfully shall serve the said William Jeffery and Easter Jeffery his wife to their works of housewifry, their servies shall keepe and their commandments lawfull and honest everywhere shall doo. ——— in the house of the said W. J. and E. J. nor without shee shall not comitt. Hurt to the said W. J. and E. J. she shall not doo, nor consent to be done. Taverns and alehouses shee shall not haunt unlesse it bee about the businesse of the said W. J. and E. J. there to be donne. The goods of her Masteresses she shall not spend nor them to any man without Lawfull Lycense Lend : neither shall or will by day or night without Lawfull Lycense absent herselfe from the servise of the said W. J. and E. J., But in all things shall soo rightly behave herself as a true and faithfull servant and apprentice ought to doo to the utmost of her power both in words and deed. AND the said W. J. and E. J. for themselves and either of them doo severally and respectively covenant, promise and grant for them, their several executors and administrators to and with the said churchwardens and overseers and every of them their and every of their successors for the tyme being by their presents that they the said W. J. and E. J. executors and administrators shall and will well and sufficiently keepe, edicate and bring up the said apprentice E. H. by and during all the tyme aforesaidis in all honest servis and labours belonging to housewifry according to her age and capacity without giving her any unreasonable or unfit correction ; and during the said terme they the said W. J. and E. J. or one of them shall and will find, provide, allow and give to their said apprentice competent and sufficient wholesome meat, drinke, apparrell, lodging, washing and all other things necessary as well in

sicknesse as in health fitting for an apprentice of her quality ; And at the end of the said terme shall and will at their or one of their costs and charges well and decently app'ell their said apprentice with good suits or sorts of apparell to all parts of her body fitting and decent whereof one of the said suits to be new and fitting for her wearing on the Sabbath daies, and the other fitting for her wearing on the working daies ; And therewith shall then suffer her peaceably to depart. In witness whereof the p'ties above said to their present indentures interchangeably have set their hands and seales the day and yeare first above written.

“Witnesses.—Stryphon Bennett and others.

“I do allow and approve of this Indenture.

“(Signed) JOHN PACKER. 28 Feb. 1687.”

VARIOUS NOTES.

Little now remains to be said. The old Parish bowling green was on Rusthall Common, on the site of the present cricket ground, and close to the depression in the ground (still visible) where the Roundheads used to keep their liquor.

The Anabaptist burying ground was a small field behind Chancellor House, Rusthall Common, a few of the monumental stones being still observable. The Baptist meeting-house was also on Mount Ephraim. The field set apart for burying people who died of “the sickness”¹ was between Sherlock’s pond and farm and Legg’s farm ; but happily the extensive site of over six acres reserved for the purpose was not required.

¹ This was the “sickness” or plague of 1603, when twenty-four persons in this Parish succumbed. It is said that the spot was subsequently used for those dying here of the great London plague of 1665. If this were so, I can find no allusion to it whatever in the registers, nor that any person died of that plague in Speldhurst.—[ED.]

Gipp's Cross at Langton was anciently Gibbet's Cross, where four roads meet, and where malefactors were executed and suicides buried with a stake driven through their bodies.

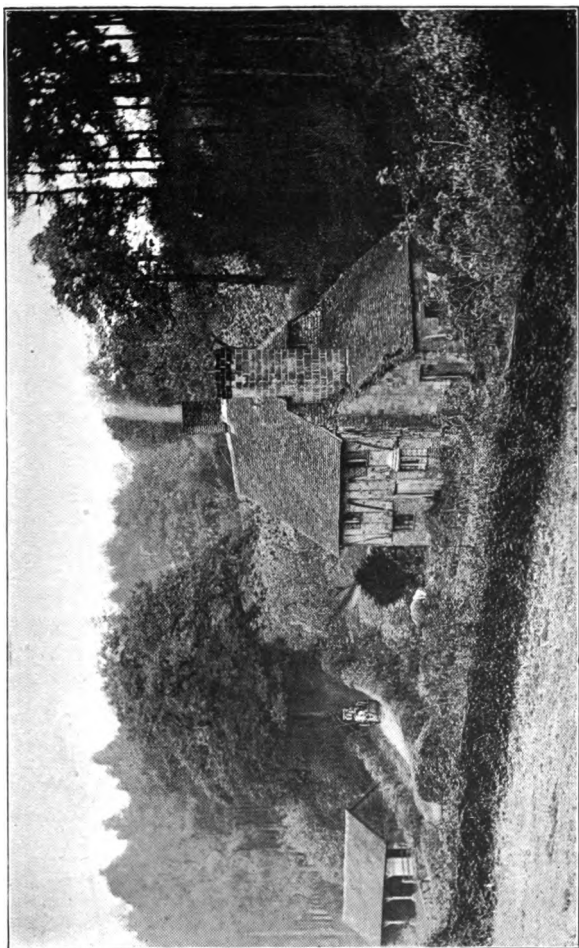
The field devoted to the ancient game of quintain was probably the Quintain Meadow (2a. 1r. 11p.), situate just beside the present Quintain Quarry, on the Langton Road.

The old pack-horse road from London to Newhaven ran through this Parish, entering from Bidborough, turning to the right at Birchetts, descending Blowers Hill, along and in the stream at Smallbrook, to the left and sharp to the right just above Smallbrook cottages, and so straight to Farnham, leaving the Hole Cottage (of which we have an illustration) to the left, and across the Langton Road at Gipps Cross, and, leaving Adam's Well on the right, down to the Sussex boundary near the present railway between Tunbridge Wells and Groombridge. On this road, where now stands the forge below Etherton Hill, in a garden, was to be seen some time since the remains of a smuggler's cave, not an uncommon sight in most parishes lying between the sea and London.

The population of Speldhurst is now not far short of 6,000 souls, but the Parish has long since been divided for ecclesiastical purposes into the independent districts of Rusthall and Langton Green; the chapelry of Groombridge alone remaining as part of the mother parish.

On August 14th, 1850, St. Paul's, Rusthall, was consecrated, and on April 7th, 1864, it was constituted an independent chapelry.¹ On November 10th, 1863, All Saints', Langton Green, was consecrated, while on September 21st, 1880, it also was formed into an independent

¹ The present Vicar of Rusthall, the Rev. F. F. Walrond, succeeded in 1874 the late Rev. B. F. Smith (afterwards Archdeacon of Maidstone), its first Vicar.



THE HOLE.
(Between Speldhurst and Langton Green.)

[To face page 64.]

chapelry¹; the Rector of Speldhurst is patron of both these, and also appoints the curate to Groombridge Chapel. Rusthall and Groombridge have burial grounds of their own.

GROOMBRIDGE.

Last, not least in interest, we come to a description of this ancient hamlet. Once known by the name of Gromenebrigge, it was often dignified by the style of "borough" in ancient documents, and is perhaps the most interesting spot within our boundaries. The name Gromenebrigge is of undoubted Saxon origin, being derived from Gromen, its Saxon owner, and brigge denoting the bridge here which crosses the little "Kent water," the stream which separates the counties of Kent and Sussex. This Gromen, a Saxon noble, is recorded to have built a castle here and surrounded it with a moat. After the Conquest the manor probably passed into Norman hands, and the old castle was destroyed. There is no record of its history thenceforth till we find William Russell and Hawis, his wife, founding a chantry at Groombridge in the reign of Henry III., A.D. 1239. This was evidently built for the purpose of acting as a kind of chapel-of-ease to Speldhurst.

The grant of lands was to "Sir Robert," Rector of Speldhurst, and to his successors. Chaplains were to be maintained there "in pure and perpetual alms." Sir Robert signs the deed as "Robertus Rec. de ecclesie Speldhurst."

In a lease by Sir Robert, dated 1256, the chapel was called "of Redmeregge," in the Parish of Speldhurst.

The next notice of Groombridge is in the following reign, when the manor was held by Henry de Cobham (uncle to

¹ On July 16th, 1881, the present Vicar of Langton Green, the Rev. S. A. Vardon, was inducted as first incumbent of the new ecclesiastical parish.

that Henry who was appointed Governor of Tonbridge Castle in 1332 by Edward III.). Henry de Cobham performed Knight service in the Welsh Wars, and in recognition of his valour a grant was made to him and to his wife Joan, daughter of Stephen de Pencestre, in 1286, by Edward I. of a King's charter for establishing a weekly market and an annual fair of three days duration—viz., the Vigil, St. John Evangelist *ante portam Latinam* and the day after—May 5—7. It is reasonable to suppose that the chantry was dedicated to that Saint and that the fair days were chosen with reference to him. St. John Evangelist day is, as we all know, the 27th of December; but this further day in the Apostle's honour commemorates his apprehension at Ephesus, his journey in captivity to Rome, and his being placed in a cauldron of boiling oil before the Latin gate after a previous scourging, and his emerging safe and sound. This was attributed to magic, and the occurrence is first spoken of as a miracle by Tertullian, who became a lapsed Christian A.D. 200.

The market has long since disappeared, but the fair survived till more recent times, when it was reduced to two days—viz., May 6th and November 26th.

Groombridge Chapel had before this time received a benefaction at the hands of Roger de Padlesworth, who was patron of Speldhurst in 1264, and who in that year executed a deed releasing his right to certain rent and service due for lands granted to the Chapel of Gromenebregge. The deed is dated St. John, *ante Port. Lat.*

Henry de Cobham died in the reign of Edward II., and was succeeded by his son, the next possessor of Groombridge, who passed the manor to the Lords of Clinton, from whom it was purchased, *circ.* 1360, by Thomas Waller, of Lamberhurst, whose second son was the famous Richard

Waller of Agincourt renown, and to whose capture of Charles Duke of Orleans, half-brother of the French King Charles VI., and rescue from a heap of slain after that celebrated battle, I have made frequent reference in these pages.

The Royal Duke enjoyed an honourable captivity, became attached to the surroundings of Groombridge, learnt English, wrote poems in that language, restored—some say rebuilt—the Parish Church of Speldhurst, and spent a good deal of money besides in renovating the Manor House of Groombridge, which had been built on the site of the Saxon Castle, and which had fallen into disrepair. Thus it is not surprising to find that it took him twenty-five years to raise the sum of 400,000 crowns, which was fixed by England as the price of his ransom. He did not reside at Groombridge during the later part of his imprisonment, but before returning to France he granted to the Waller family, with the consent of Henry VI., the following addition to their arms—viz., or, the escutcheon of France, hanging by a label from a walnut tree (the Waller crest), with the motto "*Haec fructus virtutis.*"

After these events the Wallers remained in possession of the estate till 1604, during which period we have nothing of interest to record beyond the fact that in 1540 the College of St. Laurence Pountney granted a lease of their Manor of Speldhurst to the Sir William Waller of that day, who was interred at Speldhurst in August, 1555.

The last of the family who died possessed of Groombridge was Sir Walter Waller (ob. July, 1599). His second son, Sir Thomas Waller, who succeeded at Groombridge and became Lieutenant of Dover Castle, sold the manor in 1604 to Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset.

Sir Walter's widow appears to have remained in the

neighbourhood, and, dying in September, 1624, was buried beside her husband in the chancel of Speldhurst.

The story of Edmund Waller, the poet, and his unrequited love for Lady Dorothy Sidney, daughter of the Earl of Leicester, of Penshurst, is well known. Although a relative of the Wallers of Groombridge, he could not have been a visitor at Groombridge Place while it was in possession of the Wallers, as he was only born in 1603, and was himself a widower when the romantic episode took place.

The Earls of Dorset, father and son, only retained possession for a short time. Both died in 1608, and the grandson, Richard, passed it in the latter part of the reign of James I. to John Packer, afterwards Clerk of the Privy Seal to Charles I. This John Packer vowed that he would build a chapel in the park if Prince Charles returned safely from Spain—which he did in 1623—and endow it with £20 per annum.

Accordingly the present edifice was erected in 1625, part at least of the materials of the old Chantry Chapel near the house—the site of which can still be traced—being removed at the same time. The Prince of Wales' feathers were placed in stone over the south porch, with an inscription: "In gratitude for the safe return of Charles, Prince of Wales, from Spain," I.P. When William Carnfield restored this chapel 150 years later he altered the letters "I.P." to "W. C."

The sacred edifice fulfilled the original object of the old one, and served, and still serves, as a chapel-of-ease to the Parish Church. Its dedicatory Saint (St. John the Evangelist) remained unchanged; but for some time subsequently it was known as St. Charles' Chapel.

In 1660 Mr. Packer thoroughly restored or rebuilt the manor house, and in 1662 John Evelyn was a guest at the

house. In his diary he says : " July 4th, I heard a sermon at Mr. Packer's Chapel at Groombridge—a pretty melancholy seat, well-wooded and watered. In this house was one of the French Kings kept prisoner." John Evelyn would not have found it melancholy if he could have visited it in the days to which he refers, when merry England disported itself on the village green, and when tournaments were held in the meads adjoining the postern gate, the long, low ridge towards the end of the field marking the site of the raised dais for spectators, and being still distinctly observable ; nor would he have thought it melancholy now, when it must appeal to every one privileged to visit it as the abode of joy and peace, all brightened by the simple, unaffected, and boundless hospitality of its present possessors.

The diarist, however, returned. " On 6th August, 1674," he says, " I went to Groombridge to see my old friend Mr. Packer, the house built within a moate, in a woody valley. The old house had been the place of confinement of the Duke of Orleans, taken by one Waller (whose house it then was) at the battle of Agincourt, now demolish'd, and a new one built in its place, tho' a far better situation had been on the south of the wood on a graceful ascent. At some small distance is a large chapell, not long since built by Mr. Packer's father, on a vow he made to do it on the returne of King Charles I. out of Spaine, 1625, and dedicated to St. Charles ; but what saint there was then of that name I am to seeke, for, being a Protestant, I conceive it was not Borromeo."

For many years after Philip Packer's death in 1709 the estate was involved in a chancery suit, and both place, chapel, and village suffered in consequence.

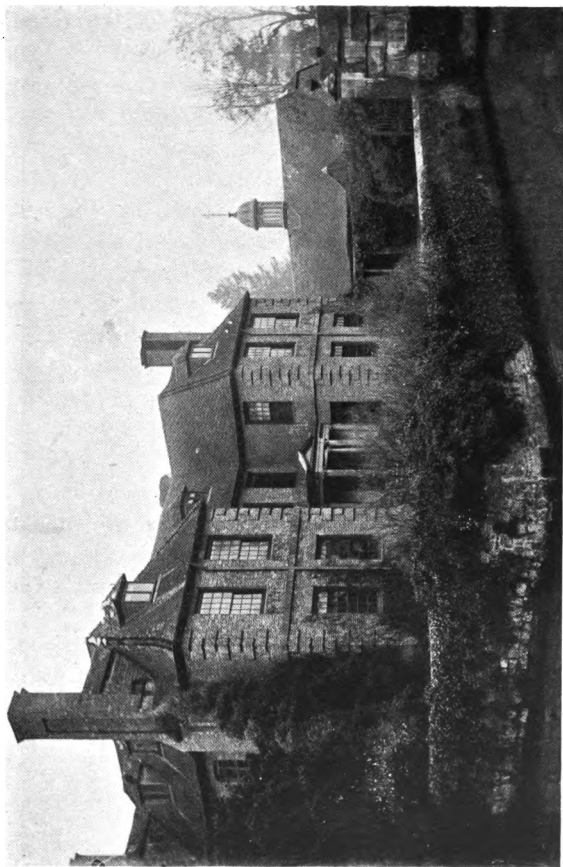
At last, in 1754, it was purchased out of Court by William Camfield, who, if the inscription on his altar-tomb is to be

relied on, proved a great benefactor to Groombridge in general, for it relates: "To the memory of William Camfield, gent., who from a very ruinous condition, generously repaired and beautified this chapel and street; of an hospitable and social disposition, charitable to the poor and benevolent to his friends, and the careful and provident parent of a numerous offspring, he died November 2nd, 1781, in the 81st year of his age."

Robert Burgess, of Hall Place, Leigh, was the next proprietor, who a few years later purchased the advowson of Speldhurst. He died in 1794, and left the property to his widow, who married James Harbroe, and in 1820 became a widow for the second time. She subsequently left it to her sister, Mrs. Saint, on whose decease it became the property of her son, the Rev. John James Saint, Rector of Speldhurst, whose surviving daughters are the present possessors.

The curates of Groombridge are not specially mentioned as such in the old records; but the Rev. Benjamin White-locke filled the post from 1848 to 1893, when he was succeeded by the Rev. J. F. Mather, 1893—96. The Rev. Herbert Masters was curate from that time till 1901, when he was succeeded by the Rev. John Brabazon, R.N.

The chapel itself, built in the perpendicular style, cannot be said to possess external beauty, but chiefly by the efforts of the late Mrs. Streatfeild and her sisters, Miss Elizabeth and Miss Louisa Saint, the interior has been most tastefully fitted up and decorated with everything that could make it worthy of being the House of God. The windows are especially interesting and appropriately designed, that over the altar being a fine ten-light window, the gift of Miss Skynner, and the work of Mr. Kemp, of Brighton. The west window in the south wall, the gift of Mrs. Streatfeild, has



GROOMBRIDGE PLACE.

[To face page 70.]

three lights, representing "Carolus Rex et Martyr," an empty throne, and St. George, Patron Saint of England. The middle window of this wall is erected "Laus Deo, and in memory of Major-Gen. B. F. D. Wilson, ob. July 6th, 1862." The three lights have figures of St. Peter, St. James, and St. John, and are the work of Messrs. Clayton and Bell. This was the gift of the Rev. J. J. Saint. The east window in the same wall (restored by Mr. Saint) has three lights by Clayton and Bell—one dedicated "To the glory of God, and the memory of Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was for many years a prisoner in Groombridge Place." The Royal Arms of France, with difference, form the centre of this light. Another, bearing the crest and arms of the Wallers, is inscribed: "To the memory of Sir Richard Waller, Knight, who rescued the Duke after the Battle of Agincourt." The third, containing old glass, designed by Packer himself, bears the Packer arms—viz., gu., ten lozenges in cross, or, between two roses arg. For crest a pelican on her nest with wings displayed. It bears the date 1625.

All the other windows are the gifts of Mrs. Streatfeild, and are designed by Kemp. That at the west end, to Maj.-Gen. R. O. Streatfeild, R.E., is a fine ten-light window. That in the north-west wall has the figures of St. Agnes, St. Paul, and St. Martin, and was erected to her parents and husband.

A small brass tablet on the south wall records the fact that William Marsdin, by will in 1850, bequeathed £3,000 towards the maintenance of a curate for the Episcopal Chapel at Groombridge, and this sum has recently been increased by the liberality of Miss Elizabeth Saint.

A marble tablet over the south porch is erected to the memory of one of our most distinguished parishioners, William Cotton Oswell, by his friends and the Royal

Geographical Society, in recognition of his discovery of Lake Ngami, when travelling with his friend and companion Dr. Livingstone. He died 1893, aged 75, and on his tomb are words that no one who knew him can fail to endorse, "A man greatly beloved."

The "God's Acre" attached to the chapel must have been apportioned by John Packer soon after the erection and endowment of the chapel (1625), for we find in Speldhurst Registers a note of the *first person* buried at Groombridge—viz., "John Lee, 13 June, 1633." The late Rector increased the size of the burial ground when he had the chapel consecrated, there being no record of any former consecration, in 1872. The chapel thus became church property, and the appointment of its chaplain or curate remains with the Rector of Speldhurst.

RECTORS OF SPELDHURST WITH GROOMBRIDGE.

Sir Robert (mentioned in a Deed of Grant). 1239 (?).

John of Speldhurst, appointed Prior of Rochester. 1320.

Sir Thomas. 1320—1346.

Sir William de Chetwode. 1346—1366.

Robert Witherdeley (or Witley). 1366—1399.

Nicholas Mocking. 1399—1426.

William Thorpe. 1426—1433.

John Pye. 1433—

John Thurstan (resigned). 1448.

Richard Barker. 1448—1481.

Ralph Hethcott. 1481—1488.

Richard Ruston. 1488—1525.

John Stevyns (presented by Henry VIII. under his new style of Defender of the Faith). 1525—1532.

Thomas Portyngton (resigned). 1532—1534.

John Blakden. 1534—1536.

Thomas Starkey. 1536—1538.

William Latymer, B.D. (resigned ; afterwards Dean of Peterborough). 1538—1553.

John Denton. 1553—1558.

† George Elliott. 1558—1609.

† Edward Weston. 1609—1640.

John Weston. 1640—1653.

Thomas Draper (intruded), 1653 ; (ejected), 1660.

Nicholas Cordell (first institution in Diocese of Rochester after Restoration of Charles II.). 1660—1677.

† Robert Boutcher (resigned). 1677—1679.

William Weston. 1679—1683.

John Lulls. 1683—1693.

† John Cornwall, D.D. 1693—1724.

† Known to have been buried at Speldhurst.

† Nicholas Adams. 1724—1727.

John Elton. 1727—1728.

† James Kearsley. 1728—1768.

† Richard Onely. 1768—1787.

Robert Gunsley Ayerst. 1787—1816.

William Gordon. 1816—1830.

John James Saint. 1830—1889.

Donald D. MacKinnon (first institution after transfer of Parish from Rochester to Canterbury). 1889.

CURATES OF SPELDHURST.

John Pynson. 1661—1667.

James ffloxney. 1680—1685.

John Wintelely. 1685—1717.

William Gordon, father and son, between 1788—1816, when William Gordon, Senr., became Rector.

W. H. Stephens. 1816—1818.

John Darby. 1818—1825.

John James Saint. 1825—1830, when he became Rector.

G. Harper. 1843—1846.

Benjamin F. Smith, of Speldhurst, then of Rusthall, 1850—1853, when he became first Vicar of Rusthall, afterwards Archdeacon of Maidstone.

J. W. Bliss. 1858—1863.

Newton W. Streatfeild. 1859—1861.

T. Sykes Hichens. 1862—1864.

Frederick H. Hichens. 1864—1879.

Donald D. Mackinnon. 1879—1889, when he became Rector.

CHURCHWARDENS OF SPELDHURST.¹

1601. John Silcock and Nicholas —

1602—5. John Groombridge and Thomas Jeffery.

† Known to have been buried at Speldhurst.

¹ John Maynard and William Symonds, "gardiens," sign the registers 1558—1600.—[Ed.]

1605. Thomas ffry and Robert Curd.
1606. Robt. Streatfild and John Brookes.
- 1607—8. Walter Smaldham and John Groombridge, of
Farnham.
1609. Edw. Mercer and Thomas ffry.
1610. Rich. Eldridge and Rich. Curd.
1611. Thos. Jeffery and Rich. Rogers.
1612. Edw. ffry and Andrew Weller.
1613. Rich. Rogers and Henere Savedge.
1614. Thos. ffry, of Methels, and Henere Beacher.
1615. W. Hogg and Wulture Dubbelt.
1616. Steph. Hadden and Hendrey Bostock.
1617. Ruben Jeffery and Thos. Nicholas.
1618. Thos. Cheesman and Thos. Holmeby.
1619. John Streatfeild and Thos. Skinner.
1620. Henery Salekorh and Henery Savedge.
1621. John Campernell and Wm. Coyfe.
1622. Gyles Waghorn and Edmond ffry.
1623. Edw. ffry and Thos Saxsbye.
1624. John ffinch and John Avis.
1625. Henry Hilder and John ffrye.
1626. James Gulsol and Wm. Symons.
1627. John Dubble and Robt. Clyfton.
1628. Wm. Card and Robt. Curd.
1629. Step. Godden and Wm. Everest.
1630. John Streatfield and Thos. Fry.
1631. ——— Delves and Chas. Nicholas.
1632. ——— Fry and Thos. Holmsby; *then* Rich. Apps
and Thos. Hunt.
1633. Edw. Hylder and Thos. Waghorne.
1634. Reuben Jeffery and Geo. Jeffery.
1635. Robt. Couldgate and Henery Hilder.
1636. Wm. Jeffery and Rich. Constable.
1637. Rich. ffrye and Walter Cutsall.
1638. Walter Cutsall and Edw. Avis.

1639. Edw. Fry and Thos. Bond.
1640. Robt. Streatfeild and Thos. Groombridge.
1641. John Godden and Robt. Fry.
1642. Wm. Card and Robt. Hollamby.
1643. Geo. Jeffery and Thos. Waghorne.
1644. Wm. Cutsall and Rich. Holmsby; *then* Rich. Nicholas.
1645. John Silcock and Wm. Stimpson.
1646. John ffry and Sam. Gilbert.
1647. Geo. Waller, gent., and Wm. Marchant.
1648. Wm. Symonds and Peter Trice.
1649. Thos. Ratclyffe and Reuben Jeffery.
1650. Richard —— and Wm. Avis.
1651. Henry Silcock and John Hamley.
1652. Thos. ffry and Thos. Stidall.
1653. John Godden and Robt. Fry.
- 1654—5. Wm. Coxe and John ffrye.
1656. Walter Godsall and Rich. Jeffery.
- 1657—9. Edw. Jeffery and Thos. Constable.
1660. Robt. Streatfeild and Thos. Hollamby.
1661. Rich. Hollamby and John Avis.
1662. John Godden and Thos. Jeffery.
1663. John Fry and Robt. Card.
1664. John Bloome, gent., and Peter Trice.
1665. Thos. Appleby and Thos. Fry.
1666. John Turner and Shires Constable.
1667. Ruben Jeffery and John Woods.
1668. Edmond Baker and Rich. Ashdown.
1669. Robt. Hollamby and Robt. Seamer.
1670. John Jeffery and Robt. Lucas.
1671. Thos. ffry and Rich. Constable.
1672. Adam ffarmer and Robt. Seamer.
1673. Edw. Children and Thos. Eldridge.
1674. John Cooke and John Cheesman.
1675. Edw. ffry and John Cosham.

- 1676. Rich. ffry and Wm. Weller.
- 1677. Thos. Waghorne and Edw. Drewett.
- 1678. Thos. Jeffery and John Avis.
- 1679. Thos. Leany and Geo. Constable.
- 1680. Thos. Weller and Peter Trice.
- 1681. John ffarmer and John Pack.
- 1682. John Wilkins and Thos. Rose.
- 1683. Sam. Cook and Walter Hilder.
- 1684. John Skinner and Robt. Curd.
- 1685. Edw. Turner and Hirslab Trice.
- 1686. Wm. Turk and John Hartridge.
- 1687. Edw. Goldsmith and John Jeffery.
- 1688. John Packer, Esq., and Edw. Children, gent.
- 1689. Thos. Silcock and John Fry.
- 1690. Rich. Druery and John Avis.
- 1691. Rich. Druery and Wm. Weller.
- 1692. Wm. Weller and Sam. Waghorne.
- 1693—4. Sam. Wagon and John Rider.
- 1695. Thos. Welden and Rich. Pottenger.
- 1696—7. Rich. Pottenger and John Sharpe.
- 1698—9. Edw. White and Jas. Goodsall.
- 1700. Jas. Burton and John Mercer.
- 1701. Rich. Jeffery and Edw. Jarrett.
- 1702. Edw. Jarrett and Wm. Camfield.
- 1703—4. Wm. Camfield and Robt. Avies, Senr.
- 1705. Henry Adams and Thos. Waghorne.
- 1706. Thos. Waghorne and Humphrey Burroughs.
- 1707. Humphry Burroughs and Sam. Waghorne.
- 1708. Sam. Wagon and Francis Combridge.
- 1709. Francis Combridge and Michael Elmes.
- 1710. Mich. Elmes and John Fry de Greenlanes.
- 1711. Wm. Hunt and Peter Trice.
- 1712. Rich. Fry and David Barham.
- 1713. Rich. Fry and Shires Constable.
- 1714. Shires Constable and Wm. Crippes.

- 1715. Robt. ffry and Robt. Mercer.
- 1716—17. John Wooll and Robt. Fry.
- 1718. Robt. Streatfeild and Wm. Jeffrey.
- 1719. Edw. Sharpe and Wm. Jeffery.
- 1720—1. Wm. Mercer and John Maynard.
- 1722. Wm. Box and Robt. Jeffery.
- 1723. Wm. Camfield and Wm. Box.
- 1724—5. Rich. ffry and John ffry.
- 1726. Edw. Jarrett and Sam. Wagon.
- 1727. Geo. Rivers, Esq., and Sam. Wagon.
- 1728. John Lockyer and Sam. Wagon.
- 1729. Thos. Cook and Thos. Jarrett.
- 1730. Benj. Skinner and Wm. Box.
- 1731. Thos. Coyfe and Benj. Skinner.
- 1732. Thos. Coyfe and Matt. Ball.
- 1733. Robt. ffriend and John Daw.
- 1734. John Daw and John Hollamby.
- 1735—6. John Hollamby and Wm. Camfield.
- 1737—9. Robt. ffry and Wm. Camfield.
- 1740. Thos. Jarrett and Robt. ffry.
- 1741. Wm. Hubbert and John Weller.
- 1742. Edmund Wood and Wm. Coyfe.
- 1743. Rich. ffry and Wm. Camfield.
- 1744. Wm. Carden and Thos. Bassett.
- 1745. John Cripps and Wm. Carden.
- 1746. Wm. Burrows and Robt. Mercer.
- 1747. Wm. Hubbert and Wm. Burrows.
- 1748. Rich. ffry and Wm. Camfield.
- 1749. Wm. Camfield and Henry Crundwell.
- 1750. Thos. Allerton and Wm. Camfield.
- 1751. Wm. Camfield and John Cripps.
- 1752. John Cripps and Robt. Hollamby.
- 1753. Robt. Hollamby and Robt. Mercer.
- 1754. Rich. May and Thos. Lindridge.
- 1755. Thos. Lindridge and Edw. ffry.

- 1756. John Stevens and Robt. ffry.
- 1757. Henry Crundwell and Robt. Cripps.
- 1758. John Burr and Edw. Gotty.
- 1759. Edw. Gotty and John Cripps.
- 1760. Wm. Burrows and Chas. Speed.
- 1761—3. Edw. Fry and Thos. Fry.
- 1764. John Fry and John Stevens.
- 1765. Rich. Newnham and Wm. Brown.
- 1766. Wm. Brown and Jas. Sharp.
- 1767. Wm. Brown and Henry Goldstone.
- 1768. John Turley and Henry Goldstone.
- 1769. Jas. Sharp and John Turley.
- 1770. Nicholas Jeffery and Jas. Sharp.
- 1771. Jas. Sharp and Elias Hurriion.
- 1772. John Turley and Jas. Sharp.
- 1773. John May and Robt. Skinner.
- 1774. Joseph Bennett and John May.
- 1775—6. John May and Wm. Foley.
- 1777. John May and Thos. Fry.
- 1778. Isaac Johnson and John May.
- 1779. John May and Richard Jeffery.
- 1780. John May and Thos. Cheesman.
- 1781. John May and John Jarrett.
- 1782. Robt. Fry and John May.
- 1783. John May and Thos. Burrows.
- 1784—5. John Camfeild and Thos. Sawyer.
- 1786. Geo. Chapman and John Camfeild.
- 1787. Wm. Fry and John Camfeild.
- 1788. Thos. Camfeild and John May.
- 1789. John May and Rich. Bassett.
- 1790. Thos. Lowther and John May.
- 1791. Joseph Austen and Benj. Fry.
- 1792. Edw. Sharp and Wm. Friend.
- 1793. Wm. Friend and John May.
- 1794. Joseph Turner and Martin Yorke.

- 1795—7. John May and Rich. Bassett.
1798—9. John Fry and Joseph Turner.
1800—1. — Knight and Wm. Fenner.
1802. William Fenner and Joseph Turner.
1803. Joseph Turner and John May.
1804—6. Thos. Huntley and Wm. Fenner.
1807. Wm. Camfeild and Thos. Huntley.
1808—9. Chas. Trice and Wm. Camfeild.
1810. Wm. Camfeild and Jas. Fry.
1811—12. Baden Powell and Wm. Camfeild.
1813—15. Robt. Field and Baden Powell.
1816. Thos. Huntley and Robt. Field.
1817. Wm. Fenner and Robt. Field.
1818—20. Joseph Turner and Wm. Fenner.
1821—24. Jas. Richardson and Joseph Turner.
1825—26. Wm. Camfeild and Stephen Sawyer.
1827—8. Jas. Friend and Wm. Camfeild.
1829. Wm. Turley and Jas. Friend.
1830. G. Sale, Junr. and Wm. Turley.
1831—5. Wm. Turley and H. Delves.
1836—53. Joseph Delves and Wm. Turley.
1854—61. Wm. Turley and Robt. Elliott.
1862—64. Chas. Powell and Robt. Elliott.
1865—80. Chas. Powell and Edw. Taylor.
1881—4. Chas. Powell and Robt. Overton.
1885—8. Edwin W. Winton and Robt. Overton.
1889 to present time. Edwin W. Winton and
Chas. W. Powell.

PARISH CLERKS.

Thomas Head. d. 1606.

John ffulman.

Thomas Hunt. 1666—75.

William Chapman. 1675—81.

John Hilder. 1681—92.

John Idell. 1692—1721.

John Nye. 1721—50.

Thomas Nye. 1750—81.

“The 22 day of Oct. Saturday
night, I, John Brooks was
put in Clerk of y^e Parish by
Mr. Onley, Rector of Speldhurst
1781—95.”

Thomas Brooks. 1795—1835.

Edward Turley. 1835—46.

Charles Uridge. 1846—73.

William Waite. 1873—91.

Walter Clarke. 1891—96.

James Baker. 1896—1902.

The present Clerk is George Finnigan.

SEXTONS.

These officials are never mentioned by name in the Parish
Books till :

Edward Young. 1823—56.

George Young. 1856—7.

Henry Young. 1857—73.

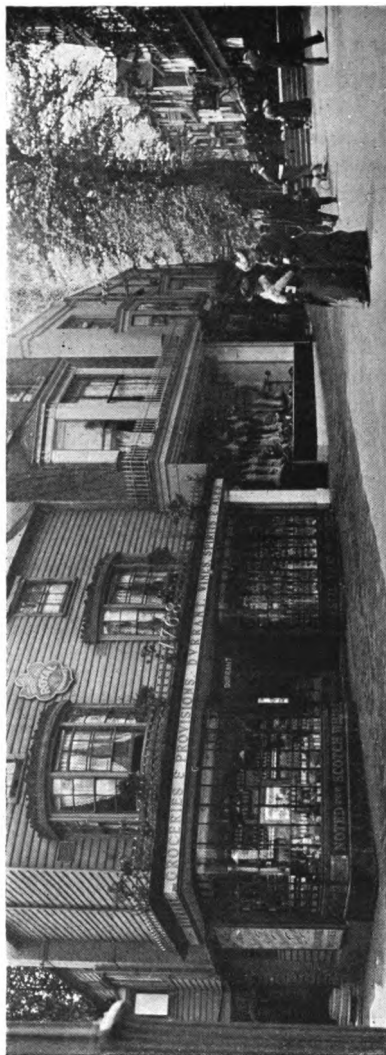
William Waite. 1873—91.

Walter Clarke. 1891—6.

James Baker. 1896—1902.

Between 1538 and the present time they buried (inclusive
of Groombridge) 7,659 persons. As the burial registers
were not ordered to be kept in the parish churches till
1538, we can form no estimate of how many lie in our
churchyard (Groombridge only commenced in 1633); but
we can trace its existence at least as far back as A.D. 1200.

FINIS.



THE PANTILES.

Durrant's Grocery and Wine Establishment.

DATING BACK
TO 1768.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Under the Distinguished Patronage of their Royal Highnesses the
Prince and Princess of Wales. . . .*

TELEPHONE NO. 0382.

F. B. WYLES



. . . (*Successor to GEO. GLANVILLE*),
Artistic Photographer and Miniature Painter.



**Special Attention—WEDDING GROUPS, GARDEN PARTIES, Etc.
ENLARGEMENTS A VERY SPECIAL FEATURE.**

Note Address: THE BROADWAY STUDIO
(Facing Clock Tower, S.E. Railway).

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TELEGRAMS: "UPHOLSTERY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS."
TELEPHONES NO. 105 (MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL).

The Complete Furnishing
Decorating, Removing,
and Warehousing - -
Establishments.



Lancaster & Cunningham,
LIMITED.



86 & 88, HIGH STREET,
13, CALVERLEY ROAD,
LITTLE MOUNT SION,
AND
52, GROSVENOR ROAD,

Tunbridge Wells.

ALSO AT . .

110, High Street, SEVENOAKS.

- ESTIMATES FREE. -

John Charlton,



FLORIST, SEEDSMAN, . . .
AND LANDSCAPE GARDENER,

35 & 37, Ye Pantiles,
AND
Summervale and High Brooms
Nurseries,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

SPECIALITIES :

High Class Seeds, very Finest Quality.
Large Collection of Herbaceous Plants.
Dahlias, a Fine Collection.
Nursery Stock Generally.
Wreaths, Crosses, and Wedding Bouquets.

The following Catalogues FREE by Post :

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS.
HERBACEOUS PLANTS. DAHLIAS. ROSES.
BEDDING AND GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ALL ORDERS BY POST OR TELEGRAM PROMPTLY
ATTENDED TO



James Comley,



**JOB AND POST
MASTER.** 

Coach and Char-a-Banc Proprietor. Forage Contractor.

Horses taken in to Bait or Stand at Livery.

Good Loose Boxes for Hunters. . .

12, Nevill Street, Frant Road,

*Telephone No. 104,
Corporation & National.*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Carriages of every description to Let on Hire.

*YOUR KIND FAVOURS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.*

H. G. GROVES,

Heraldic Stationer & Dealer
in Fine Arts, 

THE PANTILES POST OFFICE,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Visitors are respectfully invited to

H. G. Groves' Fine Art Gallery

(situated in the Pantiles Arcade, and next to the Post Office premises), to inspect his collection of ENGRAVINGS, ETCHINGS, and OIL and WATER COLOURS.

The Latest Engravings and Etchings as published.



H. G. GROVES begs to draw special attention to the forthcoming Engraving in Mezzotint (by J. B. PRATT), of HIS MAJESTY THE KING after the State Portrait painted by LUKE FILDES, R.A., and now on exhibition at the Royal Academy. The Artist's Proofs, signed by Painter and Engraver, will be published at 10 Guineas, and orders can now be received.

A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE SIZE OF THE ENGRAVING
CAN BE SEEN AT H. G. GROVES' FINE ART GALLERY.



**A Large Variety of Mounted and Unmounted
Views of the Town and Neighbourhood.**

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Antique Furniture, Old China, Paintings,
Engravings, Silver, Sheffield Plate, Etc.,
Bought, Sold or Exchanged.

Telephone
No. 0279.

ARTHUR G. SMITHERS,

Dealer in Works of Art.



9 & 17a, VALE ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

(Facing the London Approach to the S.E.R.).

Collections Catalogued, Expertised and Arranged.

Valuations made for Probate, Etc. • Inspection Invited.

Wedding
Receptions,
Ball Suppers,
Dinners,

Bread of the Finest
Quality delivered
to all parts of the
Town.

ROLLS.
FANCY BREAD.

Supplied in the Best Style.

ESTIMATES
FREE.

Parker & Hammick,
Limited.

Cooks,
Bakers and Confectioners.

44 & 46, YE PANTYLES, AND
34 & 36, MT. EPHRAIM,



TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

TELEGRAMS :
"WAYMARK, TUNBRIDGE WELLS."

TELEPHONE :
CORPORATION NO. 113.

E. WAYMARK,

*66, 68, & 70, Mt. Pleasant Road,
and 2 & 4, Calverley Road,*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.



FOR —————

**DRESSES, SILKS, MILLINERY,
MANTLES, AND MOURNING.**

Unlimited Selection at the Smallest Margin of Profit.

This book should be returned
the Library on or before the last date
stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred
by retaining it beyond the specified
time.

Please return promptly.

Br 5233.124
History of Speldhurst.
Widener Library

005953356



3 2044 081 228 645

